

NCCU NOW

A magazine for the Faculty, Alumni, and Friends
of North Carolina Central University

SPRING 2011

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**A Breakthrough
Grant for
Health Research**

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**A New Face on
the Sidelines**

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**Triumph in
Pasadena**



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Letter from the Chancellor

Dear Alumni and Friends:

I wish to express my gratitude on behalf of the entire North Carolina Central University community for your support throughout the preparation and the trip to the Rose Parade. We couldn't have done it without you!

I know you were as proud as I was of our *Marching Sound Machine* as they rounded the corner onto Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena. Please know that you helped to make a real difference in the lives of more than 200 students. This magnificent success experience may serve to alter the trajectory of their careers. It was that significant. The financial contributions, the time and the labor donated by you made this Cinderella story come true, and we will be forever grateful.

The trip to the Rose Parade is symbolic of the excellence we are striving to achieve. We are seeking to engage the entire campus in a wholehearted commitment to student success. In our new Strategic Plan, which is available for your review on our website, you can see hard numbers and dates associated with our objectives for student retention and graduation. The Plan also details our commitment to public service, community outreach, customer relations and enhancing the intellectual climate. To see the report, just click on the image on the NCCU Homepage that says "2020 Measures of Progress."

Here is how you can help. Alumni can engage in chapter activities to continue the public service that proclaims the essence of NCCU's brand beyond our reach here in Durham, and help students participate in community service in your areas when they return home. You can serve as role models when you volunteer in student enrichment activities to augment students' classroom experiences. And above all, you can provide financial support; as the state budget goes under the knife during these lean times, the contributions of our alumni are even more vital to our mission.

Getting the marching band to the Rose Parade took hard work, dedication and the commitment of an entire community to the undertaking. Making North Carolina Central University a top master's-level university in the Southeast is going to take even more. But we are confident that with the support of alumni and friends like you, we can make this dream a reality too.

Sincerely,



Charlie Nelms
Chancellor

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RIGHT

The Sound Machine makes its way along Pasadena's Colorado Boulevard



RESTRICTED
AREA
ACCESS BY
TICKET ONLY
ALL
PERSONS
SUBJECT
TO SEARCH

P
PAY
HERE

JAGUAR

RUSNAK



By Paul V. Brown Jr.

THROUGH THE LENS OF A LEGEND

Lawson shows it — and tells it — like it is

Three things you notice right away about Robert Lawson, the longtime North Carolina Central University photographer.

First, of course, is the camera equipment, which is always there, usually hanging from his neck, ready for use at a flick of his basketball player-sized hands.

Second is his couture. Lawson is always, in the slang term, clean. Crisp jackets and sharply creased dress slacks, often in some rich color, hang neatly on his trim, six-foot-two-inch frame.

And third, while Lawson isn't talkative, he is direct. He doesn't mince words. He will give you his opinion. And expect it to be

peppered with, well, spice. And it's very likely that his late father, a preacher, delivered a sermon or two about some of Lawson's favorite words.

What's harder to detect from the outside is that Lawson is a loyal North Carolina Central University partisan, an alum who had no intention of going to college at all but who has obtained two degrees from the university, has served as its photographer — both paid and gratis — for decades, and is well known by faculty and staff all across the campus.

"Robert's an original. You couldn't find a better character in any novel," says Cynthia Fobert, director of NCCU's Office of Public Relations. "He knows everyone and just about everything





Lawson says he was shocked by the rural poverty he encountered on a 2007 trip to Kenya.

about this community, which is invaluable to me as a transplanted Canadian. I count on his advice from a business perspective too. He's helped to keep me and the office on track."

Lawson, who turned 71 in January, is rooted in Durham, but he was born and raised in Roxboro in nearby Granville County. He grew up on a farm, the fourth of 10 children of Equilla and Elizabeth Lawson. Besides farming about 1,500 acres, his father was a Holiness minister who didn't graduate from high school (but who went on to post-secondary religious studies). His mother went as far as high school. Yet both parents pushed their children to obtain a college degree. All 10 did.

As a youngster, Lawson did the hard work of a farmer's son, and attended a segregated elementary school that had no running water, no indoor bathrooms and was heated by wood the students chopped or coal they gathered.

He says he had no intention of furthering his education after high school. But a young lady who had captured his fancy enrolled in North Carolina College at Durham, and he followed.

"My Dad dropped me off across the street from Chidley Hall, and gave me nothing," Lawson recalls. "I didn't have one dime."

That was not uncommon at the time. He took a job washing pots

in the cafeteria, then housed in the Alexander-Dunn Building. Soon he left his dormitory to save money, taking an apartment off campus. He switched jobs, to Paul's Restaurant, across the street from NCC. He switched again, to scrubbing floors at the Sears, Roebuck & Co. store in downtown Durham.

Meeting his mentor

In fall 1959, Alex Rivera, the noted photographer whose house was across the street from the university, advertised for someone to rake leaves in his yard. The pay was \$5 a week. Lawson applied, telling Rivera that he would rake and sweep the yard if Rivera put out a rake and broom every day. He got the job.

Rivera had his darkroom on the second floor of his Fayetteville Street home. Lawson soon was spending time there watching Rivera develop his photographs, a laborious process that took precise timing. Rivera asked the young student if he'd like to learn developing. It was the start of Lawson's photography career.

"I started to develop an eye for what should be in a photo," Lawson says. He was learning a few other lessons as well. Rivera dressed top-drawer — camel hair overcoats, pigskin gloves. "I said, 'I want to be like him,'" Lawson recalls with a wide grin.

Rivera also was a stickler for punctuality. Lawson wasn't, but Rivera converted him. "You don't have to know a whole lot," Lawson says

today. “You just have to be on time. People learn that they can depend on you.”

He earned a bachelor’s degree in business in 1962, and a master’s in educational technology in 1977. For several years, he taught Introduction to Videography at NCCU. For the past 10 years, he has taught Introduction to Photography in the School of Education.

He married his wife, Clara, in 1965. Their daughter, Apryle, and her husband, Thomas, have given the Lawsons two young granddaughters.

Photography and activism

While still an undergraduate, Lawson traveled with Rivera from state to state, taking student photos in African-American high schools and selling class rings and graduation regalia. Rivera won business shooting for NCCU, and he’d send his young assistant on some of the assignments. It was the beginning of a half-century of Lawson’s NCCU images.

As a student, Lawson also entered the strong current of civil rights activism. Hundreds of NCCU students marched and took part in acts of civil disobedience to protest the prejudice and racial segregation that prevailed throughout the South. NCCU professors urged students to be active. Often 25 or 30 students would descend on the Woolworth or Kress stores in downtown Durham.

Lawson remembers being arrested six or seven times in the early 1960s, usually for slipping under rope barriers and sitting at

cafeteria counters barred to African-Americans. The charge usually was trespassing, and the jailing often lasted just a few hours.

He was arrested so many times that once, when Rivera returned from an extended trip to learn that Lawson’s jail stay kept him from finishing a photo development assignment, Rivera threatened, “You’re going to have to find you another job because you go to jail too much.”

But Lawson persisted. Human dignity was at stake — and he didn’t intend to stop until some things changed: “Being treated wrong. Being treated like a second-class citizen. Where the white folks could go, we couldn’t go. Where they could eat, we couldn’t eat.”

He remembers taking long car trips for his work with Rivera, and not being able to eat at a restaurant or rest at a hotel.

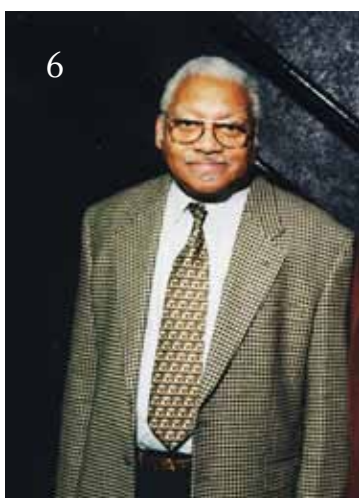
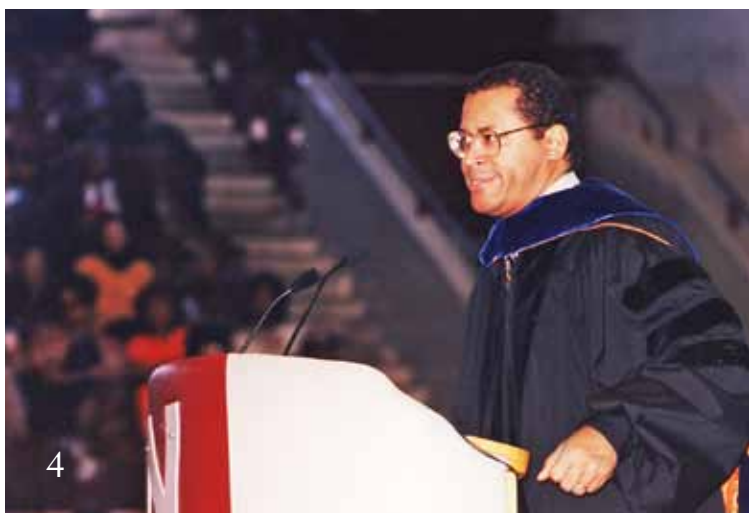
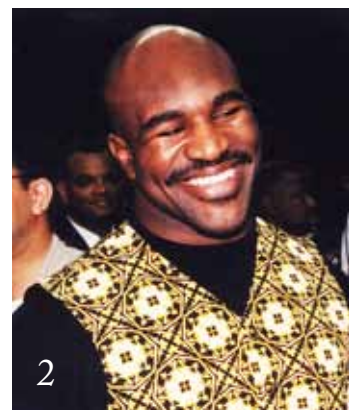
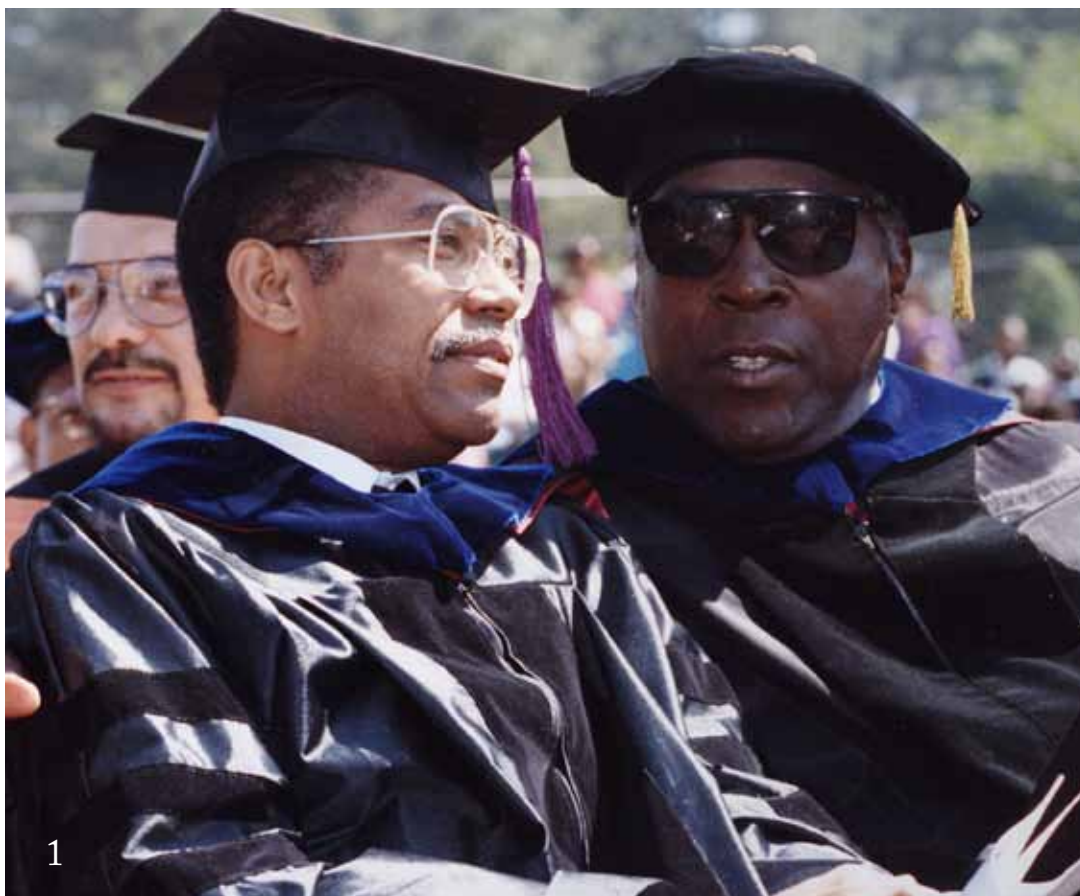
“I slept in a car many a day trying to get enough rest to be awake enough to drive home,” he says.

A business career

Rivera went on to start NCCU’s Office of Public Relations, and Lawson eventually opened his own photography shop, Lawson Photographic Services. It wasn’t his only enterprise. For about 15 years, he owned L&J Seafood, a fresh fish market a few blocks south of campus. In the late 1970s, he gave that business to a brother and opened a floral shop, Lawson’s Florist and Photographic Services. At one point, he had shops in Durham, Goldsboro and Wilson, and offered limousine services as well. And he always shot photographs.



Lawson photographed future president Bill Clinton during a campaign appearance on the NCCU campus in 1992.



Above: A few favorites from the Lawson files

1. N.C. House Speaker Dan Blue (left) and Vernon Jordan at 1994 commencement
2. Boxer Evander Holyfield at the CIAA tournament
3. A campus visit by actor Danny Glover
4. Scholar and author Michael Eric Dyson addresses students
5. Gladys Knight performs
6. Ellis Marsalis, musical patriarch

Photography and floral design both depend on visual talent, Lawson notes, and he says he took his florist cues from nature. "I looked at the way the trees and the flowers would grow, and I would try to imitate that." His shops furnished altar arrangements for several churches each week. A member of Durham's St. Titus Episcopal Church once told him that she arrived to church early each week just to enjoy his handiwork.

Another Lawson admirer is LuAnn Edmonds-Harris, director of marketing for NCCU's Athletic Department and a longtime friend. Edmonds-Harris also directed weddings and often worked alongside wedding photographer Lawson. "It was one of the best working relationships," she says. Lawson, she adds, was "very professional, extremely creative. You trusted him, and you trusted his opinion."

Lawson left the floral business in the mid-1980s, when grocery stores began selling flowers at prices cheaper than he could buy them wholesale. Besides, he says, with the seven-day-a-week press of churches, weddings and funerals, "floral shops work the hell out of you." All along, he shot photos for NCCU.

About two decades ago, he started doing contract work for the university. Eighteen years ago, he was hired full-time. Today, many of his visual reports of the university end up in newspapers and websites across the state and nation. He receives a salary for his public relations work, but for decades he has shot NCCU athletic events as a volunteer, going so far as to pick up his own travel and hotel costs when teams play at away locations.

One NCCU assignment in particular changed him. Lawson traveled to Kenya in 2007 to document a School of Education program. His memory of children, nearly naked, sleeping on the dirt floors of dung-and-straw huts, still haunts him.

"Those people over there are proud, with nothing," he says. "The schools I went to, the kids didn't even have a jump rope to play with. It was terrible."

It made him rethink his American lifestyle. "I was taking a lot of things for granted until I went over there and saw how people lived," he says. He came away more compassionate. "It taught me to be more cautious about the way I live. People who were less fortunate than me, I was concerned about them."

Asked his philosophy for taking photographs, Lawson says he keeps his readers and viewers in mind. "I look for something that will tell the story," he says. "I don't want anybody to stand around and wonder, 'What on earth was he trying to show?'"

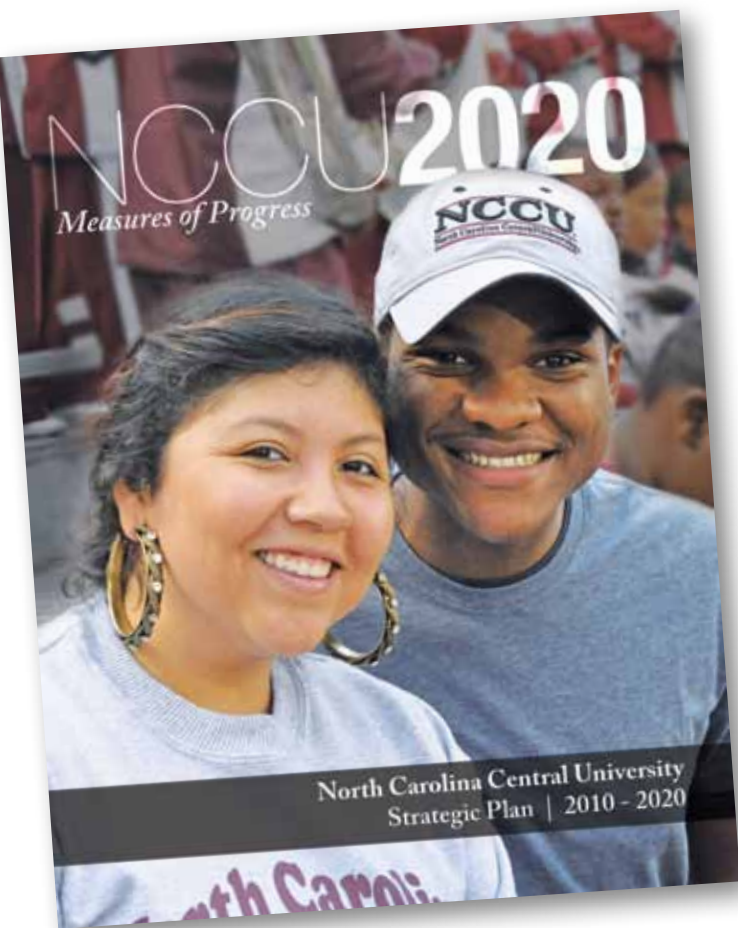
And his directness? "I believe in telling the truth and telling it like it is," he says. "If they don't like it, well that's on them. I don't know where I developed that from, but it has served me well. I don't have to wonder what I've said. I don't do it to hurt anyone. I guess I just feel better giving people my honest opinion."

Says Edmonds-Harris, "He's going to say what he means. But everybody respects and appreciates him. He says, 'Why did you do it that way?' or 'Why did you wait so long to ask for that?' And then he smiles. He gives you that big grin." ■



Lawson in action





NCCU 2020

A Strategic Plan for the Decade

By Rob Waters

A new strategic plan for North Carolina Central University lays out ambitious objectives for the university between now and 2015, and equally ambitious, if less specific, goals for the rest of the decade.

The plan, called NCCU 2020, was recently released in its final form after being approved by the NCCU Board of Trustees. It offers a detailed roadmap for raising graduation and retention rates, adding technology to classrooms, holding professors to higher standards and fostering a culture of public service and community engagement.

NCCU 2020 contains accountability provisions that are meant to keep it from being filed away and forgotten. It not only sets 2015 objectives — with specific numbers to be attained — but also provides interim targets so that progress can be measured along the way.

“A critical piece here is the metrics — there’s a timeline for everything,” said Johnnie Southerland, the university’s director of strategic planning. Southerland oversaw the preparation of the plan over the past year, drawing on extensive interviews and surveys across the NCCU campus and in the community.

To reach an overall goal labeled “Student Success,” for example, NCCU 2020 contains these objectives:

- ◆ By August of this year, increase by 25 percent the number of students academically prepared for college work. Enrolling better-prepared students would reduce the resources the university is forced to devote to remedial course work.
- ◆ By August 2012, raise the first-to-second-year student retention rate to 80 percent, and raise the six-year graduation rate to 53 percent. The current retention rate is about 75 percent, and the six-year graduation rate averages 48 percent.
- ◆ These are steps toward the 2015 goals of 82 percent retention and 55 percent six-year graduation rates.

Southerland will lead an implementation team that will work with all departments on the campus, encouraging them to develop their own plans that tie into the strategic plan.

“The plan offers a challenge to each department,” Southerland said. “What are you doing to improve student success? What are you doing to encourage public service?”

How much will ever-leaner state budgets affect implementation of the plan? Not much, Southerland insisted.

“Less money doesn’t change the goals,” he said. “Whether we operate at a full budget or a 75 percent budget, we need to work to strengthen our intellectual climate, strengthen our commitment to student success, public service and community engagement.

“How we go about doing it will change if we have to make do with less,” he said, “but *that* we do it will not.”

NCCU 2020 can be viewed online on NCCU’s website. Go to the <www.nccu.edu> homepage, then click on the button near the bottom of the page that says “2020/Measures of Progress.” ■

What's *Green* and Wrapped in Foam?

Chidley North Nears Completion

Think of the new Chidley North Residence Hall as a four-story, 125,000-square-foot insulated cooler.

A striking feature during construction of the residence hall, going up on the corner of Alston Avenue and Lawson Street, has been exterior walls made of a white foam material that resembles those insulated coolers that anglers take on fishing trips.

The material is polystyrene, but a high-density version of the insulator, says Chris Glover, senior project manager for RodgersRussell Dayeco, the contractor. Called PolySteel, it consists of 2.5-inch-thick sheets of the material on two sides, connected with tough metal mesh and strips. It is known as an insulated concrete form system. Workers stack up several levels, and then fill the opening between the lightweight panels with concrete. Then they build the next several layers, and repeat the pouring process. Brick finishes the exterior. Inside, drywall is applied directly to the polystyrene.

The material keeps out summer heat and winter's cold. Meanwhile, air inside the building that has been heated or cooled — at considerable cost — has a harder time escaping to the outside. In the long run, that should cut electricity bills for Chidley significantly, said Derek West, project architect for Lord, Aeck & Sargent.

"It's about 75 percent more insulated than a conventional residence hall," West said. The product is key to the building's winning a LEED Silver rating. The LEED program encourages global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through a suite of rating systems. It recognizes projects that implement strategies for better environmental and health performance.

The \$30 million Chidley North building will house 520 students. Glover said the dorm is on schedule to be finished by May, which will give the university time to furnish the building for fall semester move-in day in August. Construction began in January 2010. Chidley was one of three major projects on campus.

South of the Chidley Hall construction, where Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church once stood on Alston Avenue, workers are pushing ahead on the new NCCU Nursing Department Building. The \$25 million facility will provide 65,000 square feet of space for classrooms, offices, a 250-seat auditorium, a large skills lab and a family room for students with children. Completion is expected in July.

The new building will lead to expanded enrollment in the nursing programs, helping NCCU to address a statewide shortage of nurses and increase diversity in the field. According to the N.C. Center on Public Policy, North Carolina will face a shortage of 9,000 nurses in the next five years, and 18,000 by 2020.

Last August, Chancellor Charlie Nelms officially opened Latham Parking Deck to autos, adding 750 parking spaces to a campus that has a chronic shortage of parking. Work continued into January on a coffee shop, bookstore and campus police substation that now fill rooms in the \$15 million facility at the corner of Lawson and Lincoln streets.

Zack Abegunrin, NCCU's associate vice chancellor for facilities management, estimated that the three projects generated about 750 construction jobs, providing a timely boost to the struggling regional economy. ■

Right: Chris Glover, senior project manager for contractor RodgersRussell Dayeco, explains the use of PolySteel, the insulation material that coats the new Chidley North Residence Hall. It consists of sheets of high-density polystyrene foam, connected with steel mesh and strips.



Campus NEWS

Appointments:



Lois Deloatch
Vice
Chancellor
Institutional
Advancement

Lois Deloatch, a longtime fundraiser at Duke University, has been

appointed vice chancellor for institutional advancement at North Carolina Central University. Deloatch comes to NCCU having served 20 years at Duke, most recently as an associate director of corporate and foundation relations. Before that, she worked as a development project specialist, development officer, major gifts officer and interim director of development for Duke University Libraries. In addition to her fundraising work, she helped to establish the John Hope Franklin Collection of African and African-American Documentation at Duke's Perkins Library.

"Lois's long experience cultivating North Carolina philanthropy for higher education and her commitment to this community made her a perfect fit for this job," said NCCU Chancellor Charlie Nelms.

Deloatch fully understands the challenge of the position. "My first priority is to help establish the infrastructure to enhance the

reliability of our interactions with donors," she said. "They need to be assured that we will be there to serve them as they seek to make a difference in the lives of our students."

Deloatch has been recognized statewide for her commitment and leadership as a volunteer, having served on numerous boards and committees including Triangle United Way, the Volunteer Center of Greater Durham, Durham Partnership for Seniors, the Durham Arts Council, Gregory B. Davis Foundation, and the North Carolina Arts Council.

In addition to her work in university advancement, she has maintained a career as a professional vocalist and songwriter, specializing in jazz, blues and spirituals. She has released four recordings and has performed widely in the United States and abroad. She has conducted extensive research on African-American music and is a longtime supporter of the NCCU Jazz Studies Program and radio station WNCU, where she hosted "Sunday Evening Classics."

She is a native of Northampton County and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and a Master of Arts from Duke.



Chanta A. Haywood
Associate
Vice
Chancellor
for Research
and Dean
of Graduate
Studies

Chanta A. Haywood has

been named associate vice chancellor for research and dean of graduate studies at NCCU. She comes to Durham from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Fla., where she has been dean of the School of Graduate Studies since 2003.

A 1990 graduate of FAMU, where she majored in English, Dr. Haywood earned a Master of Arts degree in American Literature from the University of California, San Diego, in 1994 and a Ph.D. in American Literature from the same university in 1995. In addition to her administrative duties, she was a tenured associate professor at the Florida university. Earlier in her career, she was an assistant professor of African-American studies at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Haywood reports to Hazell Reed, Vice Chancellor for Graduate Education and Research. She said she is eager to embrace her new role. "NCCU is at a critical stage in

its history,” she said, “one in which research and graduate education are essential for Eagles to soar to new heights. Chancellor Nelms has a clear vision for research and graduate education, and I am excited about the opportunity to work with him, Vice Chancellor Reed and the entire NCCU community to help advance and meet those goals.”



Carlton Wilson '78
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts
Carlton E. Wilson, chair of the NCCU History department since 2004, has been

named dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Wilson has been teaching at NCCU since 1980, initially as visiting lecturer and subsequently as assistant professor and as a tenured associate professor. He has also served as director of the General Education Curriculum since 2002, director of NCCU convocations and commencement ceremonies since 2005, and chair of the University Quality Enhancement Plan Advisory Council since 2009.

As dean of the College of Liberal Arts, he will oversee most humanities and fine arts programs at NCCU, including the departments of Art, English and Mass Communication, History, Modern Foreign Languages, Music and Theatre.

Wilson earned his Bachelor of Arts in history from NCCU in 1978, a Master

of Arts in British history from The Ohio State University in 1980 and his Ph.D. in modern British history from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1992. Among the courses he has taught at NCCU are “The New Europeans: Immigration in 20th Century Europe,” “History of England Since 1688,” “European Intellectual History,” and “History of Afro-America.”



James Dockery '80
Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources
James Dockery has been named associate vice chancellor for human resources.

Dockery comes to NCCU with more than 20 years of expertise in diversity programs, employment law, risk management, training and development, and recruitment.

A graduate of NCCU, Dockery returns to the university after serving as associate general counsel for Walmart Stores' corporate office in Bentonville, Ark. In this position, Dockery advised senior managers and HR personnel on a variety of employment and diversity issues. Previously, he was director of diversity and corporate counsel for Clear Channel Communications in San Antonio. He also served as special counsel with the law firm of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld in Austin, Texas.

Dockery spent 23 years in the Air Force, where he served as assistant staff judge advocate, chief of military justice for the largest U.S. Air Force base in the United Kingdom; chief defense counsel in the United Kingdom, Iceland and Norway; deputy staff judge advocate, chief of military affairs and an instructor in the Air Force Judge Advocate General School.

In his first weeks on the job at NCCU, Dockery began to shape a new introductory process for new employees. The starting point is now a letter from the chancellor to every new employee, welcoming each one to the NCCU community. “We must consider how we bring people into the university, from recruitment to retirement,” said Dockery. “We want NCCU to be one of the best places to work.”

Dockery said he intends to improve NCCU's HR website to include access to university policies and enhanced visual components. A training and talent development program will provide learning opportunities for all university employees.

After earning his bachelor's degree in political science at NCCU in 1980, he earned his law degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law. He is the former chair of the Texas Bar Racial Diversity in the Profession Committee and former co-chair of the Texas Minority Counsel Program. He was a member of the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity and is a Fellow of the American Bar Association.



Dr. Jonathan Sexton

NCCU team wins \$1 million grant to develop diabetes treatment

An NCCU research team has been awarded a \$1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop drugs for treating Type 2 diabetes.

The leader of the team is Dr. Jonathan Sexton, assistant research professor at NCCU's Biotechnology Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE). The BRITE facility has been in full operation just since 2008, and Sexton said the grant is a sign that the institution is starting to fulfill its potential.

“We now have a well-established pipeline for drug discovery,” he said, “And the great part about it is, it works. We're building a world-class research institution.”

Type 2 diabetes, once known as adult-onset diabetes, is closely linked to obesity. It is a chronic condition that affects the way the body metabolizes sugar. People with type 2 diabetes are resistant to the effects of insulin, a hormone that regulates the movement of sugar into the body's cells. Untreated, it can be life-threatening.

One goal of Sexton's team is to develop a drug or drugs that can be delivered in pill form; most

treatments now are via injection. The team will use a process called high content analysis, an automated cell biology method drawing on optics, chemistry, biology and image analysis to determine what happens when living tissue is exposed to thousands of different compounds.

“We’ll use human liver cells and tissue as a platform for drug discovery,” Sexton said. “We take the tissue, and add experimental drugs to test for good or bad effects. There’s no better place than human tissue to look for success in drug development.”

High content analysis (also known as high content screening) is a well-established drug discovery technique. What’s new at BRITE is the extent of the automation. With robotics, a \$500,000 microscope and advanced imaging and image analysis technology, Sexton and his team can test huge numbers of compounds, generate a massive amount of image data and analyze it.

They will conduct the tests by drawing from BRITE’s library of about a half-million compounds. Most of the tested compounds will have no effect, or a negative one, on the human cells. But a few will have beneficial effects that warrant further study.

“We find the outliers — the needles in the haystack — where the effect is positive,” Sexton said. “It’s a straight numbers game. The more compounds you screen, the more hits you get.”

NCCU Lab Animal Program Gains International Group’s Accreditation

NCCU’s program for care and use of laboratory animals has been awarded full accreditation by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International. The association, known as AAALAC International, is a nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs. Its accreditation standards are stringent, exceeding those established by the federal government.

More than 800 research centers in 34 countries — universities, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, schools and

hospitals — hold AAALAC accreditation. NCCU is one of five campuses in the University of North Carolina System to receive the association’s approval; the others are UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. State University, East Carolina University and UNC-Charlotte.

“This demonstrates that we’re serious about the quality of our research,” said Dr. Undi Hoffer, director of research compliance for NCCU’s Division of Graduate Education and Research. “We have a first-rate animal care and use program.”

NCCU houses just three kinds of animals — rats, mice and zebrafish. They are used in a variety of research projects, many of which involve testing and screening to identify compounds that have potential to lead to preventions or treatments for cancer, neurological and cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and other metabolic disorders.

“AAALAC accreditation speaks volumes,” Hoffer said. “When competing for research funding, universities with accreditation have a big advantage.”

NCCU Yearbooks Digitized for Online Viewing

The James E. Shepard Memorial Library has announced that all NCCU yearbooks, from the first one in 1929 to the current 2010 Centennial edition, have been captured in digital form and can be viewed online.

The yearbooks can be viewed at:
<<http://www.nccu.edu/yearbooks/>> or
<<http://digitalnc.org/collections/nc-yearbooks>>.

The digital yearbook collection was made possible through the support of the N.C. Digital Heritage Center. Housed at UNC-Chapel Hill in the North Carolina Collection, the Digital Heritage Center assists and supports digitization and digital publishing efforts of many libraries and information centers throughout our state.

Funding for this project was from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the State Library of North Carolina.

Counseling Center Receives Accreditation

The NCCU Counseling Center recently received accreditation by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS), the accrediting body for university and college counseling services.

The IACS evaluates counseling services in three areas: the ability to provide counseling and/or therapy to students experiencing personal adjustment, vocational, developmental and/or psychological problems that require professional attention; assisting students in identifying and learning skills that will help them meet their educational and life goals, and supporting and enhancing the healthy growth and development of students through consultation and outreach to the campus community.

The accreditation process includes a self-study, completion of application materials for review and an on-site evaluation by IACS representatives. Reevaluations are conducted every four years and an on-site evaluation occurs every eight years. Counseling centers also submit an annual report to give evidence of maintaining standards.

Directed by Dr. Carolyn Moore, a licensed clinical psychologist, the NCCU Counseling Center has two licensed counselors, a second licensed psychologist and outreach coordinator, and an administrative support associate. ■

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An Emerging Force in Health Disparities Research

NCCU Lands a Breakthrough
Grant for Cancer Studies

By Rob Waters



Last fall, the National Cancer Institute awarded North Carolina Central University the largest sponsored-research grant in university history. The \$7 million grant over five years was hailed as a breakthrough, and as evidence of NCCU's maturation as a center for health research.

The grant was part of an overall \$11.9 million grant awarded jointly to NCCU and to UNC-Chapel Hill and its UNC Lineberger Cancer Center. It will pay for faculty partnerships between the two institutions to develop programs, enhance training and support five research projects focused on prevention, detection and treatment of cancer.

"This award is the culmination of the revitalized focus, determination and commitment to multi-disciplinary collaboration that we are emphasizing in our research efforts," Chancellor Charlie Nelms said.

Ricardo Richardson, director of the Cancer Program at NCCU's Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute, said the grant was "a monumental achievement for NCCU." Richardson has been designated the co-principal investigator — the lead scientist and general administrator for the project — sharing the title with his UNC counterpart, Dr. Shelton Earp at UNC Lineberger.

Earp, who is director of the UNC Lineberger Cancer Center, agreed. "NCCU now has the ability to do research in a nationally competitive way," he said. The grant, he said, is evidence that years of cooperation between the two institutions are bearing fruit — to the benefit of both universities. "This is not just the big cancer institute coming in to help NCCU," he said. "This is better than both alone."

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) program is designed to foster collaborations between minority-serving institutions such as NCCU and NCI-designated Cancer Centers aimed at addressing the significant disparities in the way cancer affects minority and low-income population groups.

Health disparities tradition

NCCU's development of the laboratory science resources to conduct top-level health research is recent, but health disparities are not a new topic at NCCU — far from it. The profound gaps between the health status of America's racial and ethnic minorities compared with the population as a whole have been a key focus of public health education programs on the campus since the Department of Hygiene and Public Health was established in 1943.

"It has been part of the mission all along," said LaVerne Reid, professor of Public Health Education. "The goal always has been to address issues of health disparities."

Indeed, the public health program is so well established that in 2001, when the state legislature set aside money from the national

tobacco settlement to create the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund, the trust fund's board turned to NCCU experts for leadership on the health disparities portion of the fund's programs.

Sue McLaurin, director of the Public Health Education Department's Health Disparities Initiative, and others have served as a management team and technical advisers to the trust fund. They review grant applications and currently administer more than 20 grants that underwrite community health programs in every part of the state.

Still, when it came to laboratory science research involving health disparities, NCCU spent many years on the outside looking in. That began to change in the 1990s under Chancellor Julius L. Chambers.

"When we started," Chambers recalled in a recent interview, "Central had no major grants or opportunities to get involved in science research — even though we were right here in the Research Triangle."

Building alliances

Chambers' strategy was threefold. He set out to build alliances and relationships with the major scientific research organizations in the region — not just UNC–Chapel Hill and Duke but also the pharmaceutical companies and other major corporations. At the same time, he pushed hard within the UNC System to bring to NCCU improved physical facilities and the resources to hire top researchers.

Perhaps most important, Chambers understood that NCCU was uniquely positioned to fill a research niche by focusing on health disparities, and specifically on issues involving African-Americans.

"All saw the need for Central to be involved," Chambers said. "We knew we needed to study black people. The other institutions had very few black people involved — not as subjects and certainly not as researchers. We saw that we could develop as a major player."

He knew it wouldn't be accomplished overnight. But he found strong support from the faculty, the NCCU Board of Trustees, prospective research partners — and, most important, from C.D. Spangler Jr., then the UNC System president. The most tangible early result was the

construction of the building now called the Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute (BBRI), which opened in 1999. Two other major science facilities followed during the next decade, the Mary M. Townes Science Building in 2005 and the Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE) in 2008.

BBRI's first director, Ken R. Harewood, played a central role in shaping the institute's mission and focus, assembling research teams and building partnerships with other universities, federal agencies and businesses. He also served as principal investigator for some of BBRI's earliest research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Harewood was succeeded at BBRI in 2009 by acting director Faye

Calhoun, who drew on her years of experience as an administrator with NIH to improve cooperation and communication between NCCU, UNC Lineberger and NIH (of which the National Cancer Institute is a part). The groundwork for the cancer grant was in place.

BBRI is the center of the action for the research funded by the new cancer grant. Located there are the labs and offices of Richardson, the principal investigator, and of two other NCCU scientists whose projects are part of the grant, Xiaoxin "Luke" Chen and Somnath Mukhopadhyay. A third scientist, John Scott, works across the campus at BRITE. (Their projects are described beginning on Page 20.)

"NCCU now has the ability to do research in a nationally competitive way," Earp said.

Ricardo Richardson, principal investigator for overall grant, in lab with student.



Somnath Mukhopadhyay checking on his students' progress.

is a member of an Indian family full of medical doctors who study and treat cancer (grandfather, father, brother and sister). “As a Ph.D. (in biochemistry from the University of Calcutta) I’m the black sheep,” he says. Psychologist Walter Charles, whose Ph.D. is from Princeton, has been studying and teaching in the United States for more than 30 years but still speaks with the lilt that gives away his Caribbean origin.

And there is homegrown talent as well. Scott, a drug development expert at BRITE, earned his Ph.D. from Duke and worked for two pharmaceutical companies before coming to NCCU in 2006. David Jolly, co-director of the barbershop outreach project, holds a D.P.H. (doctor of public health) from UNC-CH and worked for 15 years in public health before turning to teaching. His colleague, Seronda Robinson, earned her Ph.D. in epidemiology at Chapel Hill.

Training the next generation

Beyond the five research projects, the NCI grant has another significant component: training new researchers.

“You have to train students to replace the investigators doing the research,” said Sandra White, director of NCCU’s Center for Science, Math and Technology Education, who oversees the training program. “The pipeline is small, especially for minority researchers.”

This spring, White is recruiting eight NCCU undergraduates to be partners in the research projects — four in basic cancer biology and four in public health/behavioral science. Over the summer, the biology students will serve in paid internships in the laboratories at NCCU, and the four public health fellows will intern at UNC-CH.

“We want to attract them to these areas and familiarize them with these disciplines,” White said. There also will be workshops to give the students training in teamwork, writing, teaching skills and preparation for graduate school entrance exams. In the 2011–12 academic year, they will continue with their research and will get interdisciplinary exposure — the science interns will take courses in public health and vice versa. Those who perform well will remain in the program for a second summer.

“The aim is to prepare them to be competitive for graduate and professional programs,” White said. “This training program will give our interns several years of real experience. Many students are interested in biomedicine, but many are unaware that there are more options than being a doctor.” ■

Lab science mixed with outreach

A distinguishing feature of the research covered by the NCI grant is that it is not exclusively a lab science effort. For two of the five sponsored projects, the research will occur out in the community — among rural women in one case, and among black men who patronize barbershops in the other. The mix of hard science and community outreach is by design. The NIH requires this blended mission for such grants, and it also fits with the NCCU mission of conducting health disparities research that leads directly to tangible improvements in people’s health.

“A lot of our work is in translational health disparities — taking discoveries from the bench to treatment,” said BBRI’s new director, K. Sean Kimbro. “And the NIH makes clear that it is the National Institutes of *Health*, not the National Institutes of *Research*, so there is an emphasis on moving things out into the community.”

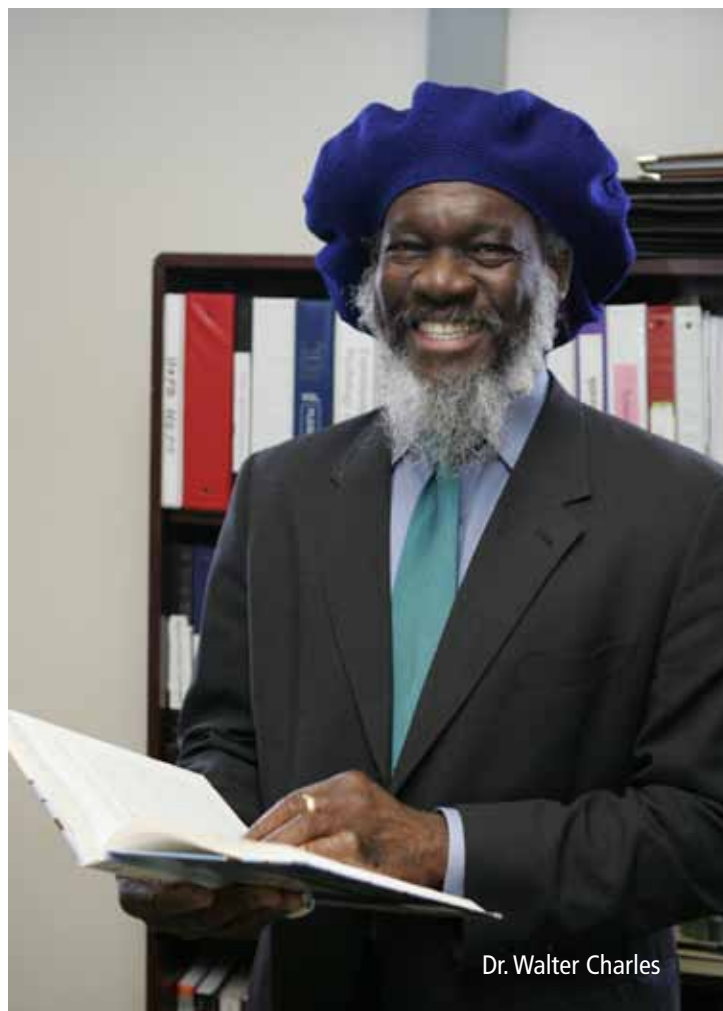
As welcome as the \$7 million grant is, the expectation across the NCCU campus is that it is part of a planned progression for research at the university, and a sign of bigger things to come. As Hazell Reed, vice chancellor for graduate education and research, puts it, “We’re not looking at this as an end, but as a beginning.”

The five NCI grant projects, though all focused on cancer, are strikingly diverse in their approaches and methodology. No less diverse are the origins and experiences of the researchers themselves.

Richardson, the NCCU principal investigator, was born in Haiti and earned his Ph.D. at the University of Barcelona in Spain. Fluent in five languages, he is described by his UNC counterpart Earp as “a remarkable bundle of both science and energy.” Chen holds a medical degree from Beijing Medical University and practiced as an orthopedic surgeon before coming to the United States to earn a Ph.D. in biochemistry at Rutgers. Mukhopadhyay

Five Research Projects in the Fight Against Cancer

The National Cancer Institute grant supports five cancer research projects under way at NCCU and UNC – Chapel Hill. Here is a look at each project.



Dr. Walter Charles

Cervical cancer screening by mail
A three-year pilot project is designed to provide cervical cancer screening services to poor rural women. The initial test will involve 250 to 300 women in two North Carolina counties. The locations are to be selected this spring.

Pap smear screening and the recent development of a highly effective vaccine have made cervical cancer among the most preventable forms of the disease. But the screening and vaccine must be administered at a clinic or doctor's office — which means that cervical cancer disproportionately affects women with poor access to health care. In the U.S., that especially means low-income women in rural areas.

NCCU psychologist Dr. Walter Charles, co-leader of the project along with UNC epidemiologist Jennifer Smith, says that getting poor rural women to screen is difficult. They face loss of income, having to take time off from work and lack of child care or transportation. "It's a hassle," Charles said. "We're trying to circumvent the hassle with this mail approach."

"If we can reach women by mail, that would eliminate or moderate many of the obstacles," he said. "We think we can significantly improve screening, especially with these high-risk groups."

Charles and his team will mail a "self-screening device" that looks

like a large plastic syringe. It has been used successfully in other countries, he said. It will be mailed to participants, along with a prepaid return envelope. The participants will use the device to collect cervical cells, which will then be tested in a lab for the presence of HPV — human papillomavirus — the cause of almost all cervical cancer. Participants will have a free follow-up visit at a clinic or doctor's office, and those who test positive for HPV will get pap smears and additional treatment as needed.

Charles said he and Smith are hoping to find answers to a number of questions. How willing are women to do this? What is the response rate? If they respond, how well does the device work? Does it yield cells that can be tested?

But the project is more complicated than it might first appear. "We know the device works," Charles said, "but for it to work properly, the instructions need to work. They need to work with white, black and Hispanic women — and they need to work for women of marginal literacy."

The psychological aspect is central to the project. "We want to know how women feel about this," Charles said. "It is a physically intimate test, after all. ... We want to measure how acceptable the process is. This we will do with a questionnaire, administered during the follow-up visit at the doctor's office."

"So in addition to biological success, we're seeking psychological success," he said. "We need women to recruit other women, to get them to buy into it." The goal is to achieve economies of scale, Charles said, adding, "We're developing a model for reaching poor

rural women nationally."

Developing drugs to treat triple negative breast cancer

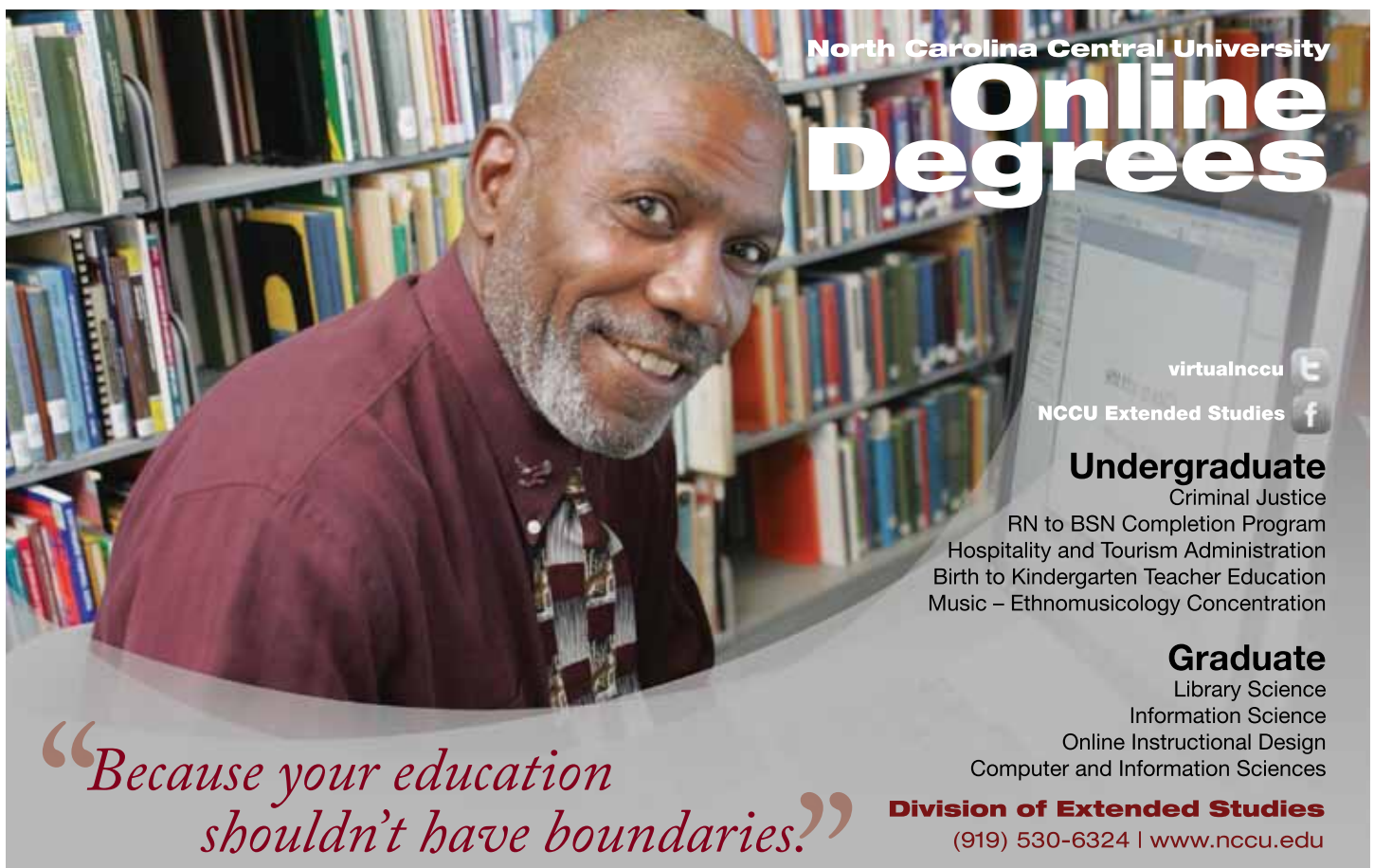
John Scott, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences at NCCU, and Gary Johnson, professor and chair of pharmacology at UNC-CH, are collaborating to identify potential drugs to treat what is known as triple negative breast cancer.

The disease is so named because the tumor cells involved lack three key proteins that are found in other breast cancers. The most effective treatments for other forms of breast cancer target those proteins, but are ineffective against the triple negative form of the disease.

Triple negative cancer accounts for 15 to 20 percent of all breast cancers, and occurs disproportionately in women of African descent. It often spreads aggressively, and is more likely than other breast cancers to strike younger women.



Johnson will perform the live research in Chapel Hill. Working with mice, he has identified one particular "protein pathway" — a sequence of biochemical reactions — that causes this cancer. It occurs when a protein outside a healthy cell induces activity in a sequence of proteins within the cell (a "cell signaling pathway") that causes the cell to begin the process of tumor growth and metastasis.

Scott, meanwhile, is an expert at screening chemicals to find ones



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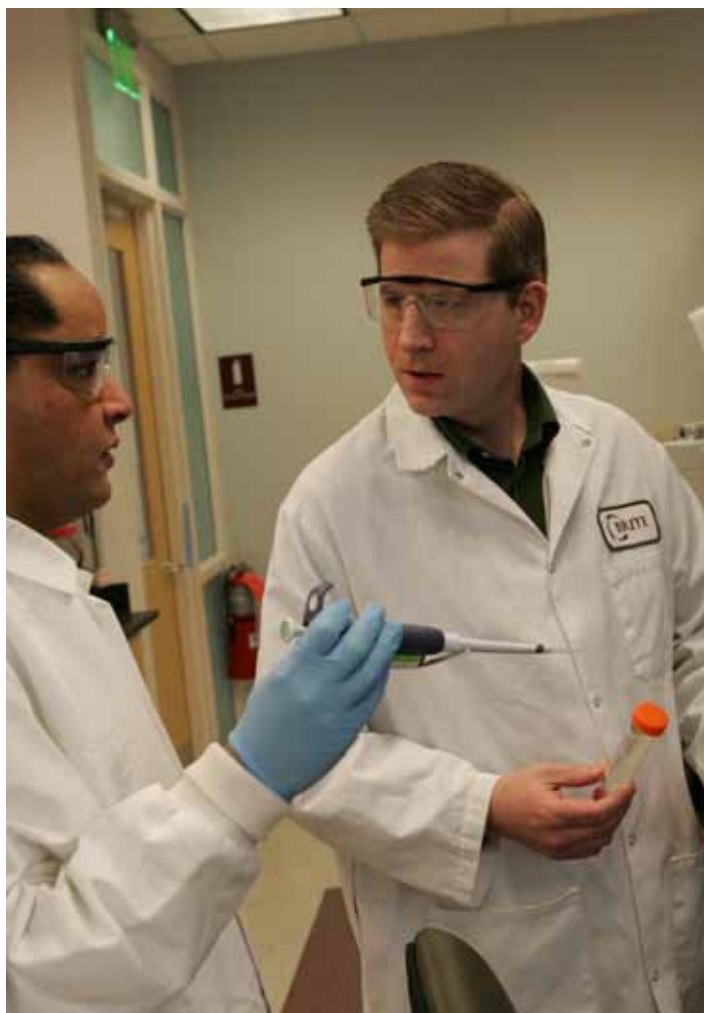
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“Because your education shouldn't have boundaries.”



John Scott, right, in his lab at BRITE with research scientist Syed Ahmad

that bind to and disrupt the activity of various targets. Drawing from a vast library of compounds at NCCU's Biomufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE), he will be looking for chemicals that interrupt the process of tumor growth.

"If we can knock out any one of the proteins along the pathway," Scott said, "it will disrupt the signal and prevent tumor growth and metastasis." He said his confidence is "pretty high" that BRITE's collection of nearly a half-million compounds contains a molecule that will do the job.

"We can screen the compounds to find ones that specifically inhibit this pathway," Scott said. Then, he said, he and Johnson will test the compound in mice that have been injected with human triple negative breast cancer cells. If the compound inhibits cancer development in the mice, he said, "we'll have proof of concept." That, in turn, would launch the drug development process.

"The pharmaceutical industry looks to academia for this kind of basic research," he said.

Treating prostate cancer with fewer side effects

Isaac Asimov once said that the most exciting phrase to hear in science, "the one that heralds new discoveries, is not 'Eureka!' but 'That's funny....'"

Dr. Somnath Mukhopadhyay experienced a "that's funny" moment a few years ago as a member of a team testing new compounds in the course of a neuroscience project. Quite by accident, said Mukhopadhyay, an assistant professor of chemistry and a researcher at BBRI, "We observed that a compound we were using was killing cancer cells."

Before long, Mukhopadhyay the neuroscientist changed career direction, becoming Mukhopadhyay the cancer researcher. He has worked extensively with cannabinoid receptors — proteins within a cell that respond to, yes, the active ingredient in marijuana. These receptors are present in certain types of cells, including some cancer cells. "There's an evolutionary reason for this but we don't know what it is," he said.

Mukhopadhyay said his team found that when a specific cannabinoid receptor is exposed to certain molecules, it will bind with them and the cell will die. He believes this points the way toward development of a drug or drugs that "kill prostate cancer cells with less collateral damage — with fewer side effects." And research data from other laboratories, he said, suggest potential for applications to other types of cancer as well.

From a practical health standpoint, he cautions, this research is at a very early stage — still at the cellular level. Subsequent tests would involve animals. "We're a long way from the bedside."

The barbershop fitness project

Laura Linnan, an associate professor of Health Behavior and Health Education at UNC-CH, is a pioneer in a very specific kind of community-based health program. For more than 10 years, she has been visiting beauty salons and barbershops, particularly those operated and patronized by African-Americans, developing low-cost ways to spread the word about prevention and treatment for diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer — all of which disproportionately affect black people.

In her newest project, Linnan is teaming up with two NCCU researchers in the Department of Public Health Education — Dr. David Jolly, associate professor and department chair, and Dr. Seronda Robinson, an assistant professor. Robinson, who earned her Ph.D. in epidemiology at Chapel Hill, worked as a research assistant in 2000 on one of Linnan's early beauty shop projects. The target this time is black men who do not get enough healthy exercise — and there are plenty of them. In North Carolina, according to Jolly and Linnan, 46 percent of black men are physically inactive. They under-use preventive care. And they die earlier; their life expectancy is about six years shorter than that of white men, and seven years shorter than that of black women.

The new project goes by the name of FITShop (for "fitness in the

barbershop”) and it will build on previous barbershop and beauty salon research efforts. “We’ve learned a lot about what works best in engaging barbers and shop owners,” Linnan said. “And they’re eager — it’s rare for a shop to turn us down.”

This project will start with 14 shops, mostly in the Triangle, and it will include about 50 men per shop. Once all the shops and men are signed up, there will be a coin toss to decide which seven shops actually get to take part. The other seven will be a control group; as a consolation prize, those shop owners will get some practical help for their business in the form of a financial workshop. A control group is needed for this project because it’s not simply a public health outreach effort; it is research, and it requires a way to measure results.

Participants will be measured at the start for height, weight, blood pressure and other health indicators. Then the fun begins. The individual shops will offer physical activity contests. They’ll be encouraged to set up teams and promote competitions between barbershops. They’ll be steered toward available community resources for physical activity. And at the individual level, participants will be provided with pedometers to encourage them to get out and walk.

After six months, they’ll be measured again on height, weight and blood pressure, and those results will be compared with the control group.

Physical activity has been specifically linked to lower rates of colon cancer, and probably a lower rate of prostate cancer too, Jolly said. In general, physical activity acts as a strong antidote to chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

A barbershop is an ideal place for such a study, Linnan and Jolly have found. “Barbers, stylists and shop owners are community-minded people, and the shops are in all communities,” Linnan said. “A barbershop is a place where guys hang out and speak freely.”

“For people whose access to health care is limited, this is a way to reach them,” Robinson added. “Barbers and stylists are natural helpers in the community.”

A different kind of disparity

Among the many health disparities studied at NCCU, a precancerous condition called Barrett’s esophagus stands out as an exception: It occurs more often in Americans of European descent than in African-Americans, Hispanics or Asians.

Barrett’s esophagus occurs among people with long-term reflux and heartburn in the lower esophagus — typically striking obese, middle-aged white people. The normal lining undergoes changes at the cellular level, and over time, many people with the condition develop a particularly severe form of cancer that is fatal within five years in nearly 90 percent of cases.

Dr. Xiaoxin “Luke” Chen, associate professor in the cancer research program at BBRI, and Nicholas Shaheen, a professor of medicine and epidemiology at UNC-CH, are embarked on a study aimed at pinpointing the genetic and environmental causes of Barrett’s esophagus.

“We’re seeking a molecular explanation,” Chen said. “How does reflux promote the process? What is the role of reflux in causing

A barbershop is an ideal place for such a study, Linnan and Jolly have found. “Barbers, stylists and shop owners are community-minded people, and the shops are in all communities,” Linnan said. “A barbershop is a place where guys hang out and speak freely.”



Dr. David Jolly, associate professor and department chair, and Dr. Seronda Robinson, assistant professor.



Xiaoxin "Luke" Chen,
in the lab at BBRI

Barrett's esophagus? We're trying to understand this at the molecular and genetic level."

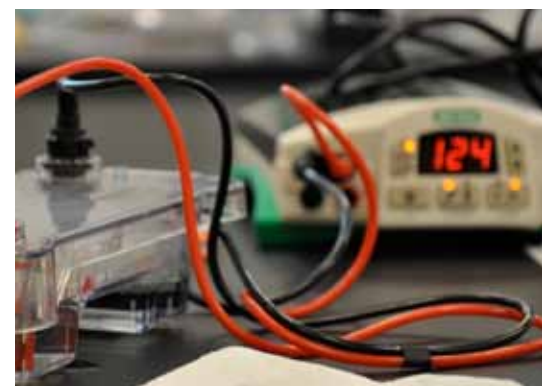
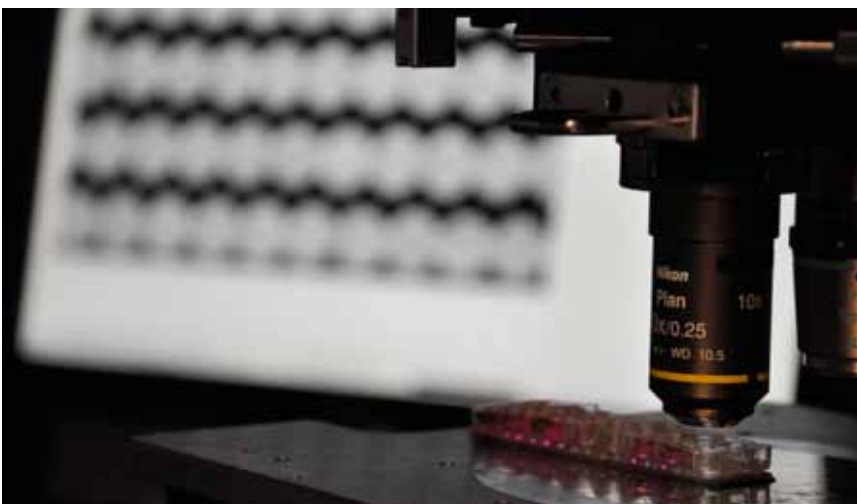
Until recently, Chen said, his research focused on exploring ways to prevent Barrett's esophagus from developing into cancer. "Now my work has shifted toward finding ways to prevent Barrett's in the first place. Can we modify lifestyle? Provide health and dietary advice?"

Based on previous research, Chen said, it's clear that Barrett's results from both genetic and environmental causes. "We have identified several specific genes that we know are involved," he said. "We know they participate in the process, but how? Is their role major or minor?"

Chen and Shaheen's team will collect esophageal cells from two patient population groups, one white and one black, to make genetic comparisons. And they will administer a questionnaire to learn about matters of environment and diet.

Team members from Chapel Hill will do the work of collecting the cells and human data; most of the lab work will be performed by Chen and his associates at BBRI.

"We're the first group in the world to be doing this," Chen said, "and it's the partnership that makes it possible. You have to have a strong clinical group and a strong research group." ■





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TURNAROUND SPECIALIST

By Mike Potter

NCCU's New Football Coach Has Made
a Career of Turning Losers into Winners

Henry Frazier III knew he was taking on a pretty tough challenge when he left his head coaching job at Prairie View A&M to become NCCU's new football coach.

But Frazier has spent most of his life overcoming obstacles. Raised in a single-parent household with two older sisters, he not only graduated from high school but became the first man in his family to finish college — and then went on to earn a master's degree.

He became quarterback at Bowie State University in Maryland and led the longtime CIAA doormat Bulldogs to a conference championship in 1989.

He took over a long-losing high school program at Central High in Capitol Heights, Md., and made it respectable before returning to Bowie as head coach and turning the program in the right direction again.



And in 2004, he became head coach at Prairie View A&M University in Texas, taking charge of a program that had achieved national fame for its awfulness. Though once a powerhouse among black colleges in the 1950s and '60s, the Prairie View Panthers hadn't had a winning season since the 1970s, and their 80-game losing streak in the 1980s set a record for American colleges that no school has come near since.

Frazier began rebuilding. In 2007, the Panthers won more games than they lost. And in 2009, long-suffering fans cried of joy as Prairie View won the SWAC championship.

"I probably decided to be a coach when I was in high school," Frazier said. "My coach (at Fairmont Heights, Md.), Ralph Paden, would allow me to call plays. I had hurt my knee so I knew I wasn't going to go to one of the bigger schools, but I knew I wanted to coach football. He told me I'd have to get a college degree to coach.

"I went to Bowie because they were losing. I went there on the tail end of a 32-game losing streak. I had a chance to go to Delaware State, Morehouse or Howard. I was thinking more toward Delaware State, and then Dave Dolch, who had been recruiting me there, got the head job at Bowie. He got me sold on the idea of making history there and turning around a program — and I've been doing that for the last 25 years, I guess."

Frazier, who was seven when his father died, did have some positive family male role models, but he says his surrogate father is Paden. He said he has never made a career decision without talking to the old coach, who is now retired and a member of the Maryland football coaches' Hall of Fame.

"I saw him running through the hallway one day being chased by some people, and he wasn't a perfect angel," Paden recalled of his protégé. "I said 'Look, man, I want you to take some of that energy and come out and play football. I'll give you the ball and let them see if they can catch you.' And he took me up on it. We made him the JV quarterback, and he hasn't failed at anything since.

"He was a leader before he got out on the football field, even if his direction wasn't always good. But he's a natural leader. People always flock to him, and once he got on the field kids gravitated toward his leadership."

In high school, Frazier was the quarterback for football, the point guard for basketball and the catcher for baseball — the positions where the smart guy has to make decisions and communicate and lead by example. He was also a member of the golf team and a former youth marbles champion. His mother, Bessie Harris, said she sent him to the local Boys and Girls Club to get him into

sports and keep him out of trouble.

"Sports were what he had to do — that's what got him through as a young man," recalled Harris, recently retired after a long career in the Department of Veterans Affairs. "He was a good little boy. I put rules down that they had to abide by. You always brag about your children, but all of mine turned out to be excellent adults.

"I was not a football fan, but he got into it when he was little. He would get a new electric football game every year. My grandfather (John Turner) would buy him every team. One time I told him to take the trash out and he decided he was going to play a little football. My patience was a little short so I stepped on his football game and broke it, but I had to replace it." Fortunately for the game, mama's stadium destruction didn't kill his interest in football.



Coach Henry Frazier III at December press conference

"When I was recruiting him, he really came out of a winning program with a very supportive high school coach," said Dolch, the Bowie State coach (who coincidentally was the first white head coach in black college football), now athletics director at Manchester Valley High in Carroll County, Md. "He was one of those guys where the first time you saw him on the field you might not think he was a great runner or a great passer, but the bottom line is he was a great leader.

"I felt like he was the guy driving our bus and turning our program around, and those other guys on the team would have followed him off a cliff. His leadership has been what made him such a winner."

Frazier said he's fully aware that nobody at NCCU is expecting any less. When the word got out that he was ready to return to the East from Texas to be closer to his family, more than a few MEAC schools were interested. He chose NCCU.

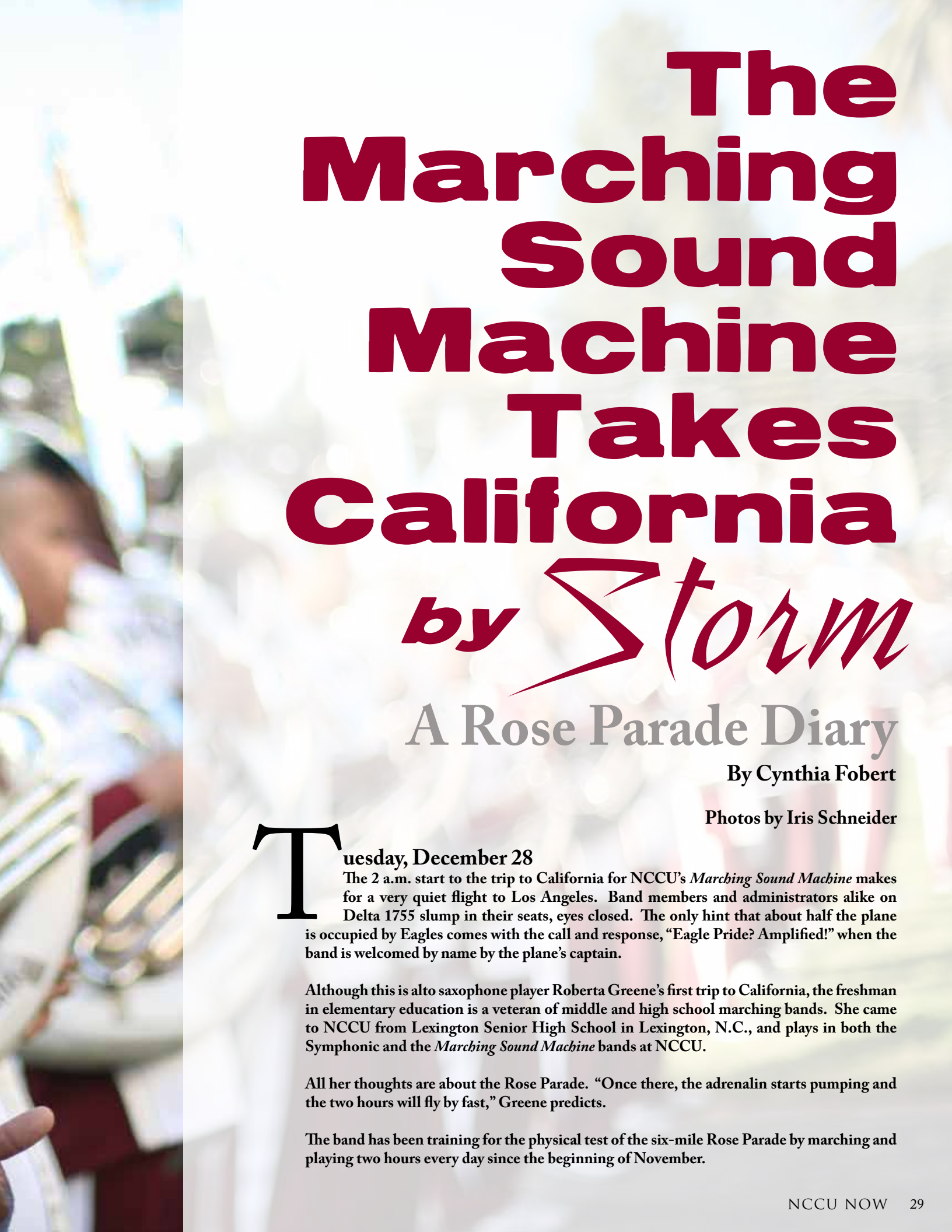
"There is something special going on at NCCU, and I wanted to be a part of it," he said. "I was extremely impressed with (Athletics Director) Ingrid Wicker-McCree. And once I was introduced to Chancellor (Charlie) Nelms, I was even more impressed.

"People are expecting me to win at Central and I expect to win," he said. "I told my players in a meeting they have a clean slate. I don't care what they did last year, they have the opportunity to impress me. But if you rest on your laurels because you thought you did well last year, you're going to lose your position.

"I want to connect with them because they want to become college-educated men and because they want to win football championships." ■



Thomas Maxwell on sousaphone



The Marching Sound Machine Takes California *by Storm* A Rose Parade Diary

By Cynthia Fobert

Photos by Iris Schneider

Tuesday, December 28

The 2 a.m. start to the trip to California for NCCU's *Marching Sound Machine* makes for a very quiet flight to Los Angeles. Band members and administrators alike on Delta 1755 slump in their seats, eyes closed. The only hint that about half the plane is occupied by Eagles comes with the call and response, "Eagle Pride? Amplified!" when the band is welcomed by name by the plane's captain.

Although this is alto saxophone player Roberta Greene's first trip to California, the freshman in elementary education is a veteran of middle and high school marching bands. She came to NCCU from Lexington Senior High School in Lexington, N.C., and plays in both the Symphonic and the *Marching Sound Machine* bands at NCCU.

All her thoughts are about the Rose Parade. "Once there, the adrenalin starts pumping and the two hours will fly by fast," Greene predicts.

The band has been training for the physical test of the six-mile Rose Parade by marching and playing two hours every day since the beginning of November.

"It takes a lot of stamina to play for two hours," Greene says. She has been practicing to ensure the consistency of her breathing. "You have to pace yourself but still have energy so the crowd can get pumped up."

But Greene is completely confident about NCCU's ability to deliver a winning performance. "I'm looking forward to our dancing — that separates us from all the other bands."

There is, in fact, no lack of confidence among any band members. After a full day of travel, Brian Henry, a junior in mass communication, is eager to go to practice.

"It was everyone's dream to go across the country in their undergrad years... to make the famous turn on Colorado Boulevard," he says. "We're ready to show the world what we're made of."

Wednesday, December 29

Tuesday's marathon day ended 22 hours later at a hotel in Anaheim, next to Disneyland, where members of the band were greeted with their new uniforms.

The uniforms arrive at the hotel just in time for their first performance at Disneyland Wednesday. The design is the same as that developed in 2003, but the band members appreciated having the bright new uniforms for the Rose Parade.

Wednesday starts with breakfast and a practice in the hotel ballroom. "We fine-tuned every piece the ensemble will perform during the trip," says Turquoise Thompson, a December graduate in public administration and captain of the auxiliary dance team. Then, it's off to Disneyland to march down Main Street. The rain that had been falling all day lets up just before the three visiting Rose Parade bands perform. The Sound Machine is the last of the three — and easily the biggest crowd-pleaser. They play Michael Jackson's "Shake Your Body Down," and the dance routines and quality sound are a big hit.

Tenor saxophone player and 2010 graduate in music Kenneth Joyner says, "The audience seemed to enjoy it. They saw a different style of marching."

"We're just having fun out here — making the most of it," says Bryan Burch, a junior music education major and trumpet player.

At night, the band enjoys some down time, with many members returning to the theme park just for fun.

Thursday, December 30

The 200-plus members of the *Marching Sound Machine* pay their first visit to Pasadena, visiting the Rose Bowl for their official photograph and then touring the massive tents where volunteers are busy applying all natural materials to the bodies of the Rose Parade floats.

The most elaborate in one tent is the California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) float called "Galactic Expedition." Cal Poly student Sean Conant explains that the float has been in the works since the concept was decided in a contest in February 2010. Half





Opposing page

Top: On a tour to check out the floats two days before the parade, Amanda Williamson captures an image.

Bottom: Band members visit the Rose Bowl for the official group portrait.

(Bottom three photos on this page)

Demonstrating precision and musicianship: Shenetta Lee and Reggie Johnson on bass drum, Quante Manuel on the F horn, and drum majors (from left) Adam Sobers, Tremain Vass, Roy Ector, Antwone Vass and Austin Chalmers.





Marching down Disneyland's Main Street are Quante Manuel, left, and Yah Yah Corbett.

of the float was built at the Cal Poly Pomona campus and half at the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo campus by 100 students from every discipline — including the university's signature engineering program.

The steel frame has been covered in foam and painted. And in the last five days, 150 volunteers have applied more than 30,000 roses, chrysanthemums, and carnations. Two motors will power the float — one to move the vehicle and one to animate the telescopic nose cone, spin the planet and work a crane that repeatedly lands an explorer on the surface.

En route to the next stop, the band travels along the parade route to help the members plan their performance. Band Director Jorim Reid is particularly concerned about a critical right turn from Orange Grove Boulevard onto Colorado Boulevard.

"I'm worried about that corner," he says. "It's 110 degrees, and that's where they take the pictures." The additional 20 degrees beyond a standard right-angle turn presents a significant challenge as band members try to maintain their straight lines, he says. It's called the "TV corner," because that is where the local stations typically set their cameras. It's considered to be a major test of precision in the Rose Parade.

But the band is ready for it. Reid has been preparing them for months. He measured the corner from satellite images and simulated it during practice with traffic cones laid out on the track at NCCU.

Along the parade route, Reid points out the massive bleachers installed in every open space in Pasadena's downtown shopping district along Colorado Boulevard. "There'll be hundreds of thousands of people here," he tells his students.

One more brief practice Friday and the *Marching Sound Machine* will be ready for New Year's Day and their first-ever Rose Parade.

Friday, December 31

The *Marching Sound Machine* has made a strong impression in its first three days in Southern California.

At Disneyland on Wednesday and for the band's Rose Parade performance, the *Marching Sound Machine* snagged featured positions in the lineup. On New Year's Day, they are scheduled to step off in 67th spot as the last "showcase band" in the parade.

Members of the band say it is their unconventional routines that set them apart from other bands. At their Bandfest performance Thursday afternoon, their dance routines to music by Michael Jackson had audience members comparing them to Jackson's video performances, and stamping the metal bleachers in appreciation.

Roy Ector II, the head drum major, explains the finer points of their stage management. The plan for Bandfest, he says, was actually just two days old. Director Jorim Reid rearranges the well-rehearsed drills to keep each major performance fresh. This means that band members must quickly memorize the new order.

"I think about what's next all the time," Ector says. "You're focusing

on the destination, the spot.”

The band members perform their intricately choreographed movements by knowing exactly where they need to end up on a memorized chart of a football field, and exactly how many steps it takes to reach their marks.

The band spends most of Friday about 20 miles from Pasadena in Pomona — rehearsing “until it’s perfect,” says band Director Reid.

New Year’s Day 2011

The North Carolina Central University *Marching Sound Machine’s* debut at the Rose Parade is a complete success!

The tricky 110-degree turn onto Colorado Boulevard? Flawless. The moon-walking dance moves? Smooth as silk. The response of the crowd? Almost louder than the band’s drum line.

“It went very, very well,” says Brian Henry, tuba player and senior in mass communication at NCCU. “The turn was very easy. Everybody did an excellent job. It was awesome!”

Turquoise Thompson, captain of the auxiliary dance team, says, “It felt like we were doing it for a lot of other people, people who came before us and those who’ll come after. My favorite part was

when we finished, we cheered and hugged each other and began rejoicing.”

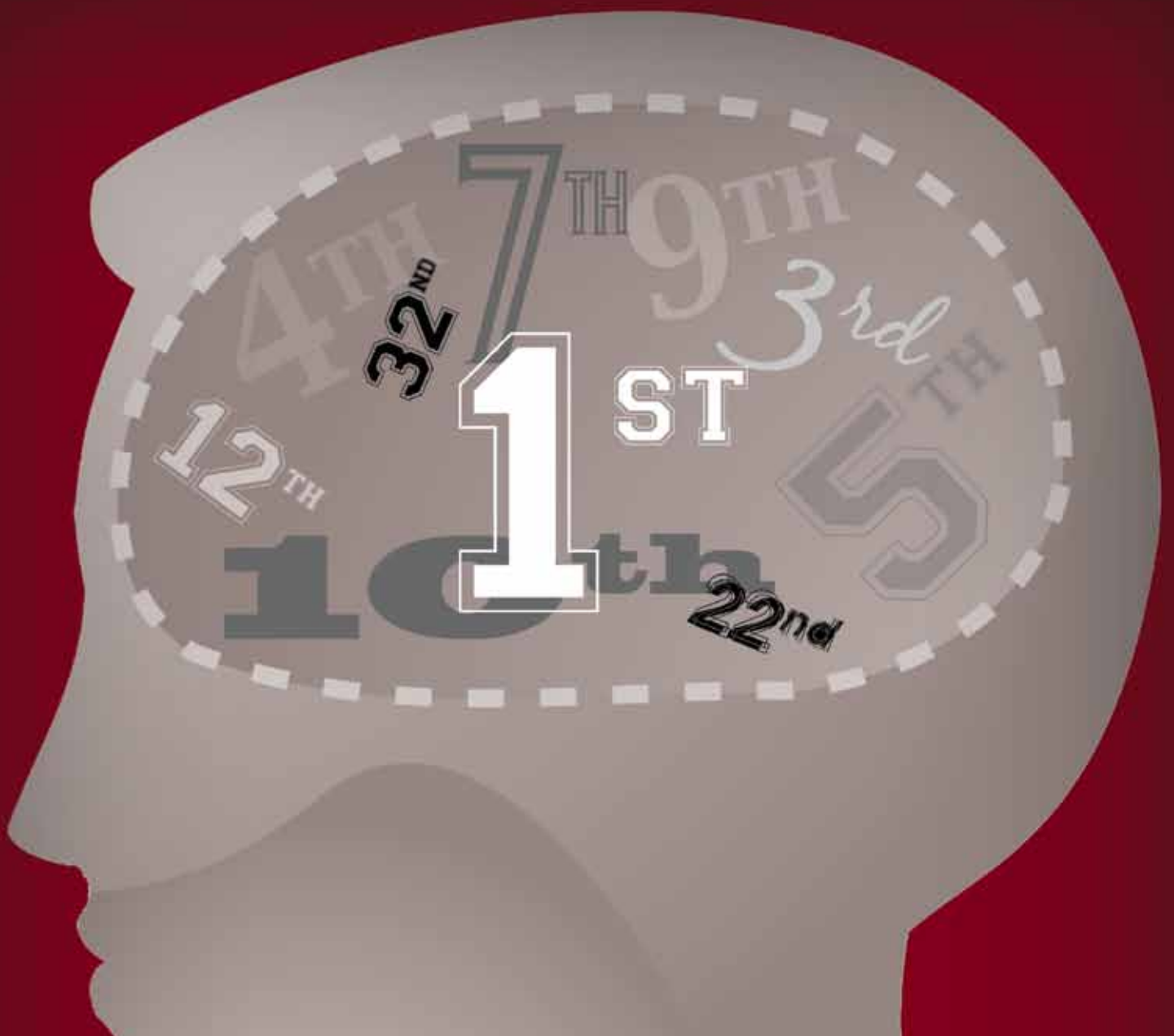
Sharing in the delight from the grandstand is NCCU Chancellor Charlie Nelms, who reflects on what it took for the band to reach an appearance in the Rose Parade, one of the highest honors a marching band can achieve.

“For the students, it gives them a concrete sense of what it takes — the hard work necessary to achieve excellence on a world stage,” Nelms says. “And that is exactly what they have done. They were superb all week long and I am extremely proud of them.

“There is no way in the world we could have purchased this kind of exposure,” he adds. “This should aid in our efforts to recruit academically and musically talented students. The increased name recognition may help us bring in gifted faculty and students to our other signature programs. And it should make our alumni across the country proud of their alma mater.

“And I have to hand it to the parents, band boosters, and all of our supporters, especially Walmart [the company transported the instruments and luggage across the country in a big-rig truck], who made this such a huge positive experience for our students,” Nelms says. “We couldn’t have done it without them.” ■





Making Sense *of* University Rankings

By Cynthia Fobert

For two years in a row, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked North Carolina Central University as the No. 1 public HBCU in the country, but what does that mean?

In the past decade, it seems as though almost every magazine and website you can imagine has caught the ratings bug. Every day brings a new list of good and bad places to live, dine, take a vacation and go to school. For example, Durham was recently ranked as the best place in the nation to retire — and also as the No. 1 housing market. With two universities and its share of Research Triangle Park, Durham made other lists as America's second-brainiest city and seventh-best place for college students to live.

When you look at ratings of universities, it's important to understand the nature of the competition and the measures employed. Princeton Review publishes a volume describing the Best 373 Colleges — and NCCU isn't in it. The organization doesn't explain its selection process, which means we can't evaluate its methodology.

Only six HBCUs are in the Princeton Review book — Spelman, Hampton, Howard, Fisk, Tuskegee, and Xavier. Why not Morehouse? Only four UNC System schools made the "Best 373" list: N.C. State, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Greensboro, and UNC-Asheville. Why not Appalachian State or East Carolina?

Once your university has been selected, we're told, subsequent ratings and rankings are based on student surveys. But the trivial nature of some of those rankings makes Princeton Review seem more like a source of entertainment than news. It not only lists "Best Party Schools," but also subdivides them into categories that include "reefer madness," "lots of hard liquor" and "lots of beer." There are also rankings for best food, worst dorms, top "jock schools" and those full of "Birkenstock-wearing, tree-hugging, clove-smoking vegetarians."

As for top party schools, see the list at right. Note that although Penn State takes the top spot, the South is well represented.

U.S. News takes rankings much more seriously. Its methodology is described clearly and at length on its website, and this serves to bolster confidence in its findings. This may be why the *U.S. News* rankings seem to be given more weight in the marketplace — and it is why NCCU touts its *U.S. News* ranking as one of its points of pride.

U.S. News uses a scoring system to rate colleges and universities. Twenty-five percent of the score is derived from peer surveys completed by college presidents, provosts and admissions deans from universities other than the one being ranked. Another 25 percent is determined by the six-year graduation rate and first-to-second year retention rate for three classes. Class sizes and student-faculty ratio, faculty salary, the percentage of faculty with terminal degrees, and the percentage that are full-time make up an additional 20 percent.

Of the remaining 30 percent, half is derived from freshman SAT reading and math and ACT scores, the percentage of students in the top quarter of their high school class and the university's acceptance rate (the percentage of applicants who were offered admission). Ten percent is determined by the spending per student for academic needs, and 5 percent is based on the percentage of alumni who contribute money, an indirect measure of student satisfaction.

These are all reasonable, defensible measures of an institution's effectiveness. Knowing this, North Carolina Central University is pleased to be ranked as the No. 1 public HBCU, directly following a string of private HBCUs in the top 10.

U.S. News admits that its methodology favors private schools because of their emphasis on admission selectivity, graduation and retention rates, class size and financial resources. It is significant that

“NCCU touts its *U.S. News* ranking as one of its points of pride.”

Princeton Review's List of Best Party Schools

- 1 — Pennsylvania State University
 - 2 — University of Florida
 - 3 — University of Mississippi
 - 4 — University of Georgia
 - 5 — Ohio University
 - 6 — West Virginia University
 - 7 — The University of Texas at Austin
 - 8 — The University of Wisconsin-Madison
 - 9 — Florida State University
 - 10 — University of California-Santa Barbara
-

U.S. News' List of Top HBCUs

- 1 — Spelman College (enrollment 2,229)
 - 2 — Howard University (7,176)
 - 3 — Morehouse College (2,689)
 - 4 — Hampton University (5,402)
 - 5 — Tuskegee University (2,931)
 - 6 — Xavier University (3,338)
 - 7 — Fisk University (636)
 - 8 — Claflin University (1,860)
 - 9 — Dillard University (1,011)
 - 10 — Tougaloo College (939)
 - 11 — North Carolina Central University (8,600)
-



seven of the 10 private HBCUs ranked above NCCU have fewer than 3,000 students, which means they have fewer minds to feed and can concentrate their resources accordingly.

U.S. News defines a regional university using the standard Carnegie Foundation definition for a master's-level institution: "those offering a full range of undergraduate degrees and some master's-level programs but few, if any, at the doctoral level." NCCU fits into this broad category and ranks 36th among public institutions in the Southern Region, falling behind Appalachian State (third), UNC – Wilmington (fifth) and Western Carolina (10th). NCCU ranks 74th if you include all Southern private schools as well, including nearby Elon (second) and Campbell (37th).

Why do we seem to fare so poorly in these rankings? Recall the criteria for comparison — SAT scores, high school placement, and retention and graduation rates. On these measures, the *U.S. News* category of regional university captures institutions with widely divergent missions and student populations. We do not, nor can we be expected to, compare as well with institutions that enroll some of the best-prepared students in the country.

But when matched with our own kind of institution, historically black or white, NCCU fares quite favorably. The Southern Regional Education Board is not in the business of ranking and rating universities, but the board did conduct a comparison study looking at data from 2006. Its research identified for praise only 15 bachelor's- or master's-level colleges and universities in the United

States that serve a high percentage of students with low SAT scores and low wealth (as measured by rates of Pell Grant eligibility), and that nonetheless managed to post respectable six-year graduation rates (see table on facing page).

All 15 schools had a median SAT below 1050, a Pell Grant eligibility rate of more than 25 percent, and a six-year graduation rate better than 45 percent. On this national playing field, NCCU and Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) made the cut. Furthermore, our two institutions had the lowest median SATs and the highest levels of Pell Grant eligibility among the 15 schools, while keeping graduation rates in the ballpark.

Institutions in which 25 percent or more of the student body is represented by a particular racial minority are termed Minority-Serving Institutions or MSIs. HBCUs like NCCU and ECSU are MSIs, as are three others in the Southern Regional board's 15, for a total of five. That means that two-thirds of the institutions on the SREB list are majority-serving institutions.

Notice the undeniable correlation between incoming SAT scores and graduation rates. The Southern Regional board's report reveals the real story about NCCU's success — and that is the extent to which we beat the odds. Yes, we're proud of our *U.S. News* ranking as the No. 1 public HBCU in the country, but we're prouder still of this lesser-known national recognition by the Southern Regional Education Board. This is truly a comparison among peer institutions, and NCCU makes the grade. ■

Southern Regional Education Board

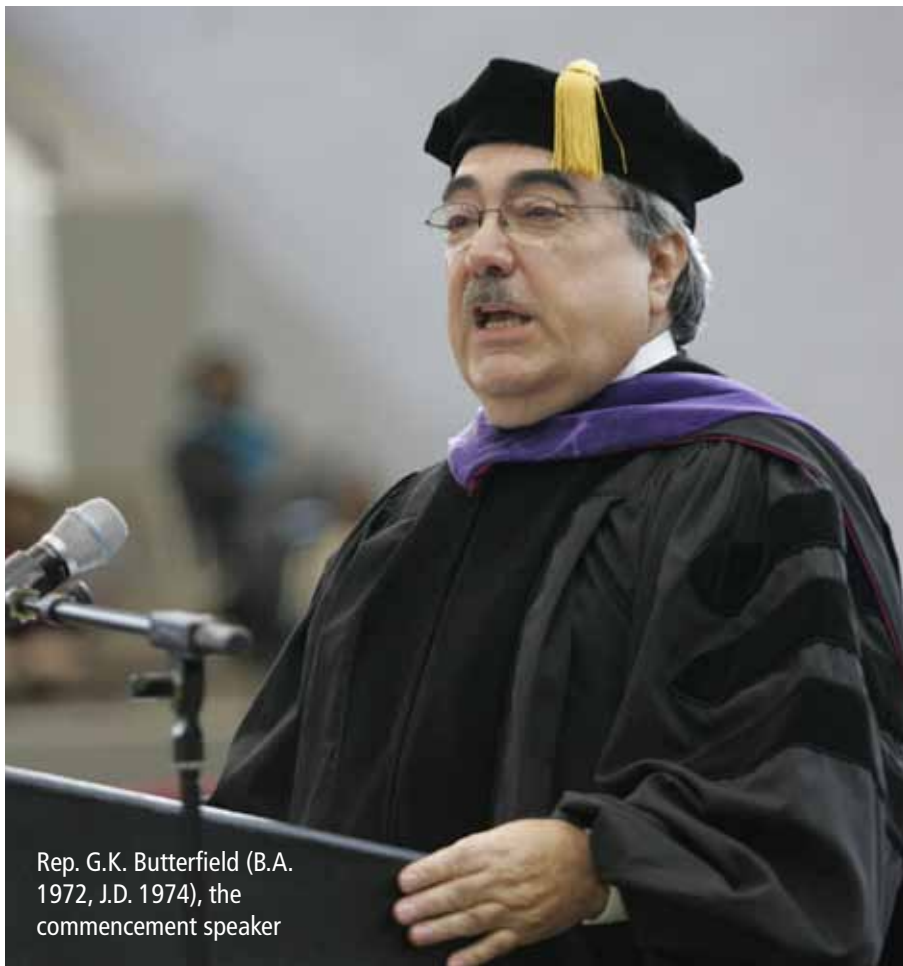
In its 2009 report, “Promoting a Culture of Student Success,” the Southern Regional Education Board identified NCCU as one of 15 U.S. colleges and universities that admit high percentages of students who face economic and academic challenges and find ways to exceed expectations and post average graduation rates. These colleges and universities, the report said, “have created graduation-oriented cultures that are focused on student success, through attentive leadership at all levels and an array of programs ... and policies that work in collaboration to serve students effectively.” The data for each school is from 2006.

Institution	Median SAT	Six-Year Grad. (%)	Pell Grant (%)
Elizabeth City State University (HBCU)	835	49	65.4
North Carolina Central University (HBCU)	840	49	56.6
Clarion University of Pennsylvania	915	53	33.0
Delta State University (Mississippi) (MSI – Black)	930	47	45.3
California State University Stanislaus (MSI – Hispanic)	970	50	45.1
Western Kentucky University	970	49	36.3
Western Illinois University	990	56	27.7
Wayne State College (Nebraska)	990	52	38.9
Sam Houston State University (Texas)	1,000	46	30.3
Northwest Missouri State University	1,010	55	26.8
California State University Long Beach (MSI – Hispanic)	1,015	48	33.9
Murray State University (Kentucky)	1,025	56	29.5
Queens College, City University of New York	1,025	53	30.7
The College of Staten Island, City University of New York	1,035	51	32.2
Montclair State University (New Jersey)	1,045	59	26.3

A Diverse Collection of Institutions — the UNC System

Unlike the schools compared by *U.S. News* and the SREB, the UNC system is made up of institutions of diverse Carnegie classifications. NCCU is classed as a large master's-level institution. We share that classification with Western Carolina, UNC – Wilmington, and Appalachian State, but that's about all that we have in common. The statistics presented are from 2009.

Institution and Classification	Median SAT	Six-Year Grad. (%)	Pell Grant (%)
Elizabeth City State University (HBCU) <i>Baccalaureate/Diverse</i>	835	46	66
North Carolina Central University (HBCU) Master's Large	853	44	64
Fayetteville State University (HBCU) <i>Master's Small</i>	865	32	70
Winston Salem State University (HBCU) <i>Baccalaureate/Diverse</i>	874	36	55
N.C. A&T State University (HBCU) <i>Research High</i>	920	37	57
UNC – Pembroke (MSI – Black) <i>Master's Medium</i>	928	34	43
East Carolina <i>Doctoral/Research</i>	1,025	57	32
Western Carolina <i>Master's Large</i>	1,039	49	29
UNC – Greensboro <i>Research High</i>	1,039	52	32
UNC – Charlotte <i>Doctoral/Research</i>	1,056	54	24
UNC – Wilmington <i>Master's Large</i>	1,156	68	13
UNC – Asheville <i>Baccalaureate / Arts and Sciences</i>	1,158	59	17
Appalachian State University <i>Master's Large</i>	1,163	64	16
N.C. State University <i>Research Very High</i>	1,176	73	16
UNC – Chapel Hill <i>Research Very High</i>	1,301	85	16



Rep. G.K. Butterfield (B.A. 1972, J.D. 1974), the commencement speaker

By Paul V. Brown Jr.

A Record-Setting *Fall Commencement*

U.S.

Rep. G.K. Butterfield sent out a record number of Fall Commencement graduates with a rousing address about faithfulness and faith in God.

The university awarded about 600 undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees on Dec. 11, the most ever for a fall commencement. The old record, set in December 2009, was 467.

It was North Carolina Central University's 116th commencement. Butterfield, a Democrat, represents North Carolina's 1st Congressional District in the northeastern part of the state. He entered NCCU in 1965 as a member of the class of 1969, but left for military service before graduating. He returned in 1971 to complete his undergraduate degree and start law school, earning his B.A. in 1972 and his law degree two years later. A former judge in state superior court and court of appeals, Butterfield won

reelection in November 2010 to a fourth term in Congress. In his address, he urged the NCCU graduates to be faithful to humanity, themselves, their families and their alma mater.

"You must understand that there are six billion people in the world. One-half of them live on less than \$2 per day," Butterfield said. "Thirty thousand children in the world under the age of 5 die each day from malnutrition and disease. In this country, 36 million people live in poverty. One out of five children lives in poverty. You cannot ignore humanity, and as you leave this place, you cannot ignore the world."

Butterfield told a packed crowd in McDougald-McLendon Gymnasium that he arrived as a freshman in 1965, days after the Voting Rights Act had passed Congress and just a year after the Civil Rights Act had passed.

Only months earlier, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. had visited the campus. Upperclassmen related that King “spoke of his dream of racial equality and equal opportunity for future generations,” Butterfield said.

“You were part of his vision. This institution was his vision. The election of black officials was his vision. And the epitome of that vision was the election of President Barack Obama.”

He closed his address by noting that a tennis racket or golf club in his hands had a much lower value than in the hands of a Venus Williams or a Tiger Woods. Our value as people and citizens, he concluded, is based on “in whose hands we are,” referring to God.

Fall Commencement was the last major event in NCCU’s centennial year. Dr. James E. Shepard, the school’s founder, welcomed the first students to campus on July 5, 1910. Initially named the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua, the institution went on to become the nation’s first publicly supported liberal arts college for African-Americans.

As he has done at past commencements, Chancellor Charlie Nelms recounted the stories of graduates who overcame obstacles to obtain their college educations. One of them, Carlton Koonce, dropped out of school and was in trouble with the law by age 18, Nelms said. With help, Koonce completed an associate’s degree, started a family and gained admittance to NCCU in 2008. He immediately began writing for the student newspaper, the Campus Echo. He became editor the next year.

Under Koonce’s leadership, the Echo revised its online edition and won nine Excellence in Journalism awards, including one for best overall HBCU student newspaper, Nelms said. Koonce graduated summa cum laude in mass communications with a concentration in journalism.

Nelms said Caroline Njogu (pronounced joe-GOO) volunteered with homeless children at the end of the school day in her home city of Nairobi, Kenya. She came to the United States 10 years ago. In 2010, she was selected as one of 200 students nationwide to receive the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. Working with African Advocates Against AIDS, a nonprofit organization in Raleigh, Njogu created a lay health advisor program to provide diabetes and hypertension education to African refugees in the Raleigh-Durham area. She did so while carrying a full course load and working part-time in the School of Education.

Njogu graduated magna cum laude with a Master of Public Administration degree.

Gary Bradley Hodges faced a job demotion in the current tough economy, but he had watched as his father, mother and sister lost jobs and successfully started over financially. Hodges completed his associate’s degree at Durham Technical Community College, Nelms said, and enrolled in NCCU’s School of Business. He graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in business management and administration. ■



Gary Hodges, mentioned in chancellor’s speech. Bachelor of Business Administration, summa cum laude.

thank you



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT CHRISTOPHER KNUCKLES

As a recipient of several scholarships at North Carolina Central University, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for any contributions you have made to help students like me pay for our education.

My name is Christopher Knuckles, and I am a freshman here at NCCU. I am majoring in jazz studies and minoring in philosophy. I am a member of the University Honors Program, the Chancellor's Scholars and the Centennial Scholars.

I was born in England and later moved to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland and then to Greenville, N.C., which I call home. In high school I was very involved in music and the National Honor Society. I chose to enroll at NCCU after turning down music and merit-based scholarships from several top postsecondary institutions.

At NCCU, I am receiving a music scholarship and a "special" scholarship. Together they cover nearly all of my tuition and fees, and I am humbled and grateful to be their recipient. These scholarships relieve my parents of a serious financial burden, and I will be able to put some of the money otherwise spent on tuition toward traveling abroad to New Zealand this summer.

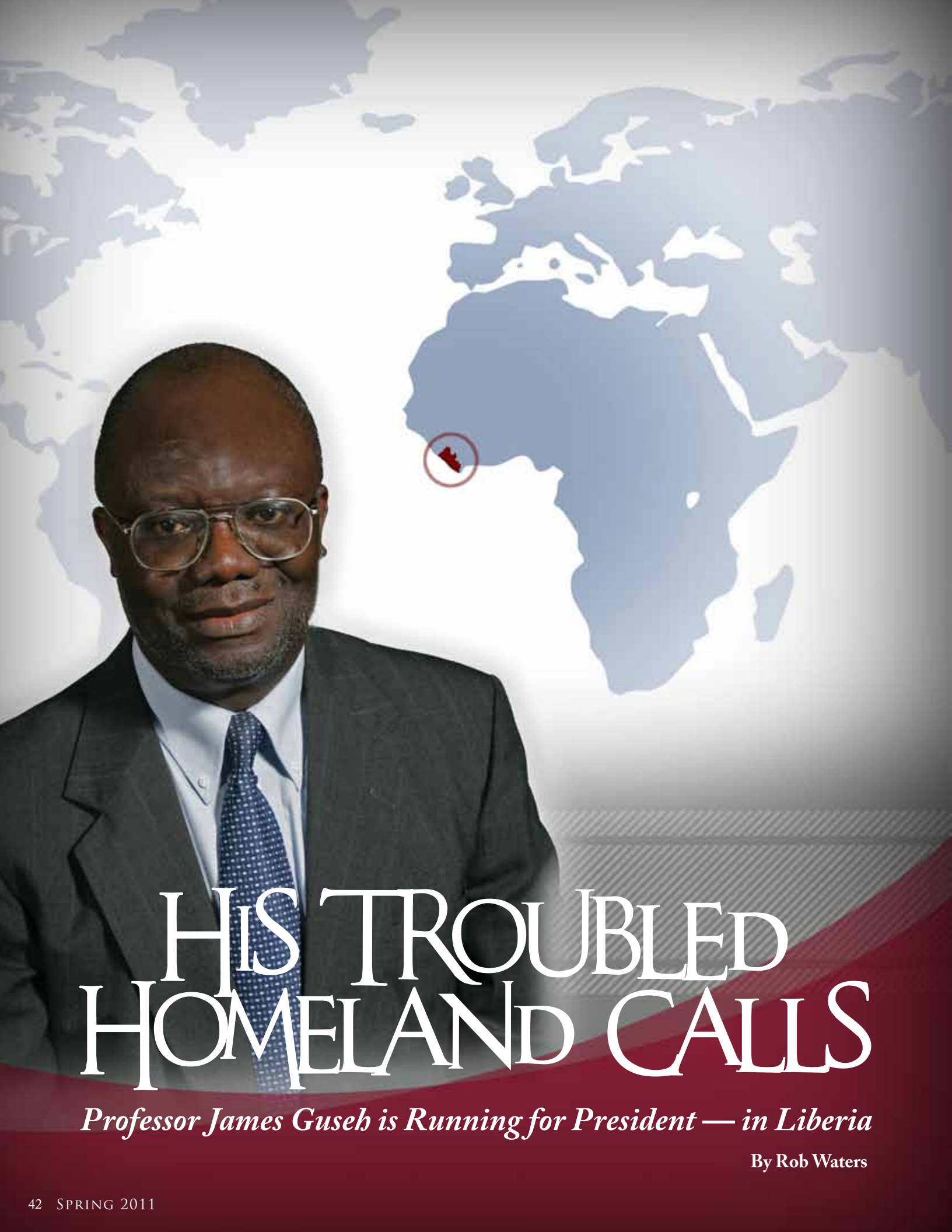
When I finish college, I plan to pursue a career in neuroscience. Specifically, I would like to be involved in research on how music affects the brain and how the brain plays a role in the subjective experience of music, a field known as neuromusicology. Neuroscience has remained at the peak of my intellectual intrigue since I was introduced to it a few years ago.

My time at NCCU will help prepare me in every way to pursue my aspirations, and the scholarships have played an undeniable role in making my dreams a reality. I would like to specifically thank Dr. Ira Wiggins from the Jazz Studies Department and Dr. Ansel Brown from the University Honors Program for their part in giving me the many opportunities I've been granted so far.

Again, I would like to thank all of you for any contributions you have made to help students like me finance our education. I hope you will continue to support the education of those who represent the future of your historic alma mater, North Carolina Central University.

Yours,

CHRISTOPHER KNUCKLES



HIS TROUBLED HOMELAND CALLS

Professor James Guseh is Running for President — in Liberia

By Rob Waters

Dr. James Guseh has taken a leave of absence from North Carolina Central University to run for president of his native Liberia. A professor of public administration who came to NCCU 13 years ago, Guseh left his family and his comfortable life in Durham behind in January to campaign in the towns and villages of one of the poorest nations on earth.

Yes, he acknowledged, he does sometimes wonder what he's gotten himself into — but he also believes it is his duty to help. "That's my country, and I cannot sit here in America in luxury while I see my people suffering," Guseh said in an interview in his campus office shortly before he departed.

Liberia is an Ohio-sized country of about 4 million people on the west coast of Africa, founded in the mid-19th century by freed blacks from the United States. Never prosperous in the best of times, it has been reduced to desperate poverty over the past 30 years by military coups, two bloody civil wars and rampant corruption.

The election is in October. There may be a dozen or more candidates for president, but the one to beat is the incumbent, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, winner of a 2005 election generally considered to have been free and fair.

Sirleaf's term has been marked by relative stability, which Guseh attributes to the presence of about 12,000 United Nations peacekeepers. "Without them, the tensions that fueled the civil wars could easily flare up again," he said.

"Stability is a big plus," he said. "It helps open the door to investors. Foreign investment will be a vital element for getting the economy growing again — but corruption is a deterrent."

And corruption, he said, is where Sirleaf's tenure has been a disappointment. "Her two primary issues as president were reduction of poverty and eliminating corruption," he said. "She's reducing poverty on paper, but not in people's pocketbooks. And she pledged zero tolerance on corruption, but it is still rampant. She doesn't seem to have the political will to go after it, because her friends are in government with her."

The Guseh platform

As the standard-bearer of the Citizens Union Party, Guseh offers several remedies. He would build roads and other infrastructure throughout the country to encourage job creation and economic development, promote healthcare and education, and improve the delivery of agricultural products to markets. He would decentralize government, giving county and local governments more authority to manage their own affairs. And perhaps most important, he said, his own zero-tolerance policy regarding corruption would actually be enforced.

Guseh first came to the United States when he won a scholarship to attend Brandeis University, where he earned a B.A. in economics. He continued his studies at the University of Oregon, earning a M.S. in economics. From there, it was on to a joint-degree program at Syracuse University, where he picked up both a law degree and

a master's in public administration. He returned to Liberia then, working during the 1980s as an economist and legal advisor in the ministries of finance and justice. When the political situation deteriorated, he returned to the U.S., earning his Ph.D. in political economy (and yet another master's) at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Although he has lived in the United States as a student and a teacher for much of the past 30 years, Guseh has maintained his connections with his homeland. Soon after the civil strife ended in 2003, he began making regular visits each summer, accompanied by NCCU graduate students in public administration, who served as interns with the government. As a scholar, he has written extensively about African governance, economics and politics.

A physically taxing campaign

The campaign will be difficult, he says. "I'll travel a lot from town to town and village to village," he said. "There are no domestic flights, so most travel must be by car or four-wheel-drive vehicle. And there will be a lot of walking, because some villages are not reachable by road at all." He looks forward to having his family join him this summer.

He has been at work on the campaign for months. "It's hard to run a campaign from outside the country. But I have a group here doing mostly fundraising and a group in Liberia doing groundwork."

Liberia's two civil wars (1989-96 and 1999-2003) killed an estimated 250,000 people and displaced about 1 million, mostly to refugee camps in neighboring countries. Even with good government, Guseh said, recovery will take many years.

"It is still a wounded country," he said. "I remember when it was a peaceful place. Now there is much more anger and people are much more out for themselves."

Many people have suffered severe physical and psychological damage, and there are hardly any psychologists or social workers to help them."

Although much of the domestic warfare was between indigenous tribal groups in Liberia, a long-running theme of Liberian politics is the division between indigenous people and the descendants of the freed American slaves who established the country. For most of Liberia's history, these Americo-Liberians have been the elite, wielding most of the economic and political power.

Sirleaf is identified mostly with the old elite. In the 2005 election, she barely defeated George Weah, an international soccer star who ran a populist campaign. Part of Weah's appeal, Guseh said, was his indigenous ancestry, but many voters had reservations about his limited education.

"Some said we want a true indigenous Liberian who is educated," said the man who has earned six degrees. "That's certainly a role I can fill." ■



By Paul V. Brown Jr.

Founder's Day surprise: a \$500,000 gift



J.C.

“Skeepie” Scarborough III and his wife, Queen, aren’t known as a flashy couple. But their appearance on stage at November’s Founder’s Day observance at North Carolina Central University drew the rapt attention of an almost full-house audience.

Scarborough, a 1960 graduate of NCCU, announced from the dais a special planned gift to his alma mater of \$500,000.

Both Scarboroughs are NCCU alumni. J.C. received a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education with a minor in biology. He is the owner of Scarborough & Hargett Funeral Home, a Durham institution. He was inducted on Founder’s Day as a Golden Eagle, marking 50 years since his class graduated from the university.

Queen Scarborough is prominent in her own right. A career educator, she headed several exemplary Durham public schools as principal, including Shepard Middle School, named for NCCU’s founder, Dr. James E. Shepard. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration 1972, when she reigned as Miss NCCU. In 1975, she earned a Master of Science degree in business administration.

The couple’s grandson, Terrell C. Bass, is NCCU’s current Mr. Freshman.

J.C. Scarborough grew up on campus — he calls himself a campus brat — because his mother, Hattie Bell Strong Scarborough, worked at NCCU for 35 years. When it came time to go to college, however, he picked Ohio University (Hattie was a Buckeye native), then transferred to NCCU in his sophomore year.

“My mother agreed to the transfer but with two rules,” he recalls. “‘You won’t [live] at home.’ So I moved into Chidley Hall. ‘And two, you will not bother me [at her Hoey Administration Building office] before 4:30. If it’s an emergency, you will meet me in my office. If it is not, you will meet me in the circle when your father picks me up.’”

“My mother agreed to the transfer but with two rules,” he recalls. “‘You won’t [live] at home.’ So I moved into Chidley Hall. ‘And two, you will not bother me [at her Hoey Administration Building office] before 4:30.”

Scarborough’s grandfather knew Dr. Shepard, and his grandmother was a friend of Shepard’s wife, Annie. Scarborough said relationships like those helped him as he pondered making the contribution. Both Scarboroughs said the gift is in return for the way NCCU changed their life and the lives of others.

“This moment, of course, is very significant to me in that we are able to give back to this great university ... which has so richly impacted several of our respective family members,” Queen Scarborough said. Her husband told the assembly that “NCCU is filled with legends,” particularly noting employees through the years who helped students who had no money.

NCCU is encouraging planned-giving contributions, through wills or trusts. Such giving can protect a donor’s current income, provide security for heirs and offer tax advantages. The Office of Institutional Advancement can provide details. Contact Randal Childs at (919) 530-5264 or at <rchilds@nccu.edu>.

The announcement was met with thunderous applause and a standing ovation. On receiving the gift, Chancellor Charlie Nelms said, “Dr. Shepard could have done a lot with this.” ■

ClassNotes

By Anita B. Walton

Promotions, Appointments and Announcements

'48 Doris B. Jackson (B.A.) of Philadelphia was honored by the NCCU Alumni Association at its National Convention and Centennial Celebration on July 10, 2010. The association presented Jackson with its Volunteer of the Year Award.

'50 Simeon Holloway (B.A.) of Las Vegas, Nev., is now retired from his career as a teacher and actor. During World War II, he was a member of the first all-black U.S. Navy band, the "B-1 Navy Band."

'52/'65 H.M. "Mickey" Michaux Jr. (B.S., J.D.) of Durham was reelected in November to the N.C. House of Representatives from his Durham County district.

'57 Jesse T. Moore Jr., Ph.D., (B.A.) of Henrietta, N.Y., professor emeritus of history at the University of Rochester, was honored by the university when it renamed its Urban League Scholarship the Jesse Moore Urban League Scholarship.

'63 Dr. Christine Dockery Brooks (B.S.) of Washington, D.C., was honored by the NCCU Alumni Association at the association's National Convention and Centennial Celebration on July 10, 2010. The association presented her with its 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award. Brooks was appointed by President George H. W. Bush to a leadership position at the U.S. Department of Labor with oversight for employment and training, and workers' compensation programs. She is currently an educational consultant.

'65 Gwendolyn Peace Taylor (B.A.) of Denville, N.J., was honored by the New Jersey Chapter of the NCCU Alumni Association during its Eagle Image Awards Scholarship Luncheon.

'67 Ella Elizabeth Tyson Harris (B.A.) of Greenville was elected to the East Carolina University Educators Hall of Fame on Nov. 6, 2010. She received a Master of Arts in Education from East Carolina University in 1986.

'69/'72 Milton F. "Toby" Fitch (B.A., J.D.) of Wilson was reelected in November as chief resident Superior Court judge in the 7th Judicial District, which comprises Wilson, Nash and Edgecombe counties.

'69/'74 G.K. Butterfield (B.A., J.D.) of Wilson was reelected in November to the U.S. House of Representatives in eastern North Carolina's First Congressional District.

'70 Daniel T. Blue (B.S.) of Raleigh was reelected in November in his Wake County district as a state senator.

Jean Farmer-Butterfield (B.A.) of Wilson was reelected in November to the N.C. House of Representatives from her district in Edgecombe and Wilson counties.

Hazel Sanders (B.A.) of Raleigh was honored by the NCCU Alumni Association during the association's National Convention and Centennial Celebration on July 10, 2010. The association presented Sanders with its 2010 Alumna of the Year Award.

'71 Jacqueline A. Brodie (BSC) of Durham was honored by the NCCU Alumni Association at the National Convention

and Centennial Celebration on July 10, 2010. The association presented Brodie with its 2010 President's Award.

'72 Dr. Bobbie Richardson (B.S.) of Louisburg was elected to the Franklin County School Board.

'74 Harold T. Epps (BBA) of Philadelphia was honored by the NCCU Alumni Association at its National Convention and Centennial Celebration on July 10, 2010. The association presented Epps with its 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award. Epps is president and CEO of PRTW Services Inc. He is a current member of the NCCU Board of Trustees.

'75 Cheri Bryant Hamilton (J.D.) was reelected in November to the Louisville (Ky.) Metro Council.

'76 Deboy Beamon (B.A.) of Thomasville, principal of Thomasville High School, was selected as the 2010-11 Thomasville City Schools principal of the year.

Archie Smith (J.D.) was reelected in November as Durham County clerk of superior court.

'80/'84 Pat Evans (B.A., J.D.) won election in November to a first term as a Durham County District Court judge.

'82 Richard Elmore (J.D.) was reelected in November to the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

Naomi K. McLaurin (B.A.) of Philadelphia was named director of diversity for the Philadelphia Bar Association. The association's Office of Diversity partners with hiring partners and managers at

Philadelphia law firms, legal departments and public agencies to develop educational and community outreach activities.

Curtis T. Massey (B.A.) of Washington, D.C., who is NCCU's 2010–11 "Mr. Alumni," received the Charitable Service Award from the U.S. Department of Labor for his involvement and leadership in raising funds to provide scholarships to disadvantaged students attending NCCU. Massey is employed by the Labor Department's Employment & Training Administration.

'83 Joan Koonce (B.S.) of Athens, Ga., an associate professor and financial planning specialist at the University of Georgia, published her first book, "Integrity in a Box of Chocolates: Consuming Life's Hardships One Bite at a Time," in December 2009.

'84/ '91 Elaine Bushfan (B.S., J.D.), a longtime district court judge in Durham, was elected in November to the Durham County Superior Court.

'85 Arenda L. Wright Allen (J.D.) was nominated in December by President Barack Obama to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. If confirmed, she would be the first African-American female federal district judge in the state. Since 2005, she has been an assistant public defender in the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia, based in Norfolk. Previously, she served in the Navy JAG Corps for five years on active duty, then as a reservist for 12 years.

'85/ '91 Lisa Smallwood Howell (B.A.) of Durham was named NCCU's 2010–11 "Mrs. Alumni."

'86 Nathan T. Garrett Sr. (J.D.) published "A Palette, Not a Portrait: Stories from the Life of Nathan Garrett," memories of his experiences and broad outlines of the Garretts' achievements through the years. His wife, Wanda J. Garrett '86 (J.D.) served as his editor for the edition.

'87 Capt. Winslow Forbes (B.A.) of Durham was promoted to assistant chief of the Durham

Police Department in September 2010. Forbes now holds the No. 3 rank in the department and is in charge of Southside Operations. He joined the department in 1988.

'89 Jay H. Ferguson (J.D.) of Durham was named to Best Lawyers in America 2011. He was selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2011 in the field of eminent domain and condemnation law.

Tracey Cline (J.D.) was reelected in November as Durham County district attorney.

Douglass F. Jones (B.A.) of Glenn Dale, Md., announced the birth of daughter Victoria Evonne Jones on Sept. 7, 2010. Her paternal grandparents are Dr. Evonne Jones '53 and the late Linwood "Tricky" Jones '55. Victoria's parents look forward to the day when Victoria becomes the family's seventh proud Eagle.

Addie Rawls (J.D.) was reelected in November as a Johnston County district court judge.

'90 Eleanor "Ellie" Kinnaird (J.D.) of Chapel Hill was reelected in November to the North Carolina Senate from her Orange County district.

'94 Craig Croom (J.D.) was reelected in November as a District Court judge in Wake County.

Carolyn Faucette (B.A.) of Warren County has been named director of the Title I program for Warren County Schools.

Keith O'Brien Gregory (J.D.) was reelected in November as a District Court judge in Wake County.

Louis "Skip" Perkins (B.A., MPA) of Washington, D.C., became Howard University's director of intercollegiate athletics on Jan. 1. He previously served as the athletics director at University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff.

'96 Harold Cogdell (J.D.) was reelected in November to the Mecklenburg County board

of commissioners.

Brian Wilks (J.D.) won election in November to a first term as a Durham County District Court judge.

'98 Shayla C. Nunnally, Ph.D., (B.A.) of Manchester, Conn., a professor at the University of Connecticut, is breaking new ground in race relations and comprehension with her forthcoming book, "Trust in Black America: Race Discrimination and Politics," to be published this year by New York University Press.

Jane Blackburn (MLS) of Rocky Mount was promoted in September 2010 to director of library services at Rocky Mount's Braswell Memorial Library. She previously was the assistant director.

'01 Alice L. Bordsen (J.D.) of Alamance County was reelected in November to the House of Representatives.

'02 Darkisha Perry (BBA) of Louisburg was named as Warren County Schools' Teacher of the Year for 2010–11. She teaches at Northside Elementary School.

'03 Tony Gurley (J.D.) was reelected in November to the Wake County Board of Commissioners.

'06 LaDonna Williams (J.D.) of Raleigh joined the Law Offices of James Scott Farrin as a personal injury attorney. Her work earned her the designation of "Rising Star" by North Carolina Super Lawyers in 2010.

James C. Bryan (J.D.) was appointed city attorney for Lumberton, N.C., in January. He previously practiced law in Jacksonville, N.C.

'09 Switzon Wigfall III (B.A.) of Durham hosts an art exhibit, "Something Graphic for the People," at SeeSaw Studio in Durham. The show opened on Oct. 16, 2010. SeeSaw Studio helps and inspires children. Wigfall also does contract work in graphic and web design and development.

Jamilla Hawkins (MPA) of Tarboro became Edgecombe County Extension Service's newest agent on November 15, 2010.

'10 Tyler J. Russell (J.D.) of Charlotte has joined Ward & Smith P.A. in the firm's Greenville office. Russell earned his law degree summa cum laude from the NCCU School of Law, where he served as senior editor of the North Carolina Central Law Review.

Class year not available

Lawrence Clayton has been selected to star as Jean Valjean in Paper Mill Productions' 25th anniversary touring production of *Les Misérables*. In 1996, Clayton appeared as the Minstrel in the Sarah Jessica Parker revival of "Once Upon a Mattress."

Jean Woods of Chapel Hill has been listed in Stanford Who's Who as a result of her work in the healthcare industry. She is a dentist and owner of Jean Woods DDS PA. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology from NCCU.

In Memoriam

'20s

'23 Blanche Lucille Sparrow Rivers of New Bern, Dec. 28, 2010. Mrs. Rivers, who was 105 at the time of her passing, completed high school at the National Training School in Durham, now known as North Carolina Central University. She went on to earn a degree from Shaw University in Raleigh in 1927. She served as treasurer for her husband's business, Rivers Funeral Home of New Bern (now operating as Rivers-Morgan Funeral Home), for 77 years. She was a charter member of Theta Beta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and a lifetime member of St. Peter's A.M.E. Zion Church.

'40s

'49 Andrew Healon "Salt" Williams (B.S., M.S.) of Elizabeth City, Nov. 13, 2010. He was a retired educator and Tuskegee Airman. He was captain of the NCCU baseball team in 1947, 1948 and 1949, and was inducted in 1985 into NCCU's Alex M. Rivera Athletic Hall of Fame. He also

played football in the 1946-47 season.

'50s

'50 '50 Clementine Coley Coblyn (B.S.) of Lexington, Mass., Oct. 14, 2010

'51 & '54 Marion DeLora Jacobs Phillips (B.A., MLS) of Clinton, N.C., Nov. 20, 2010

'52 Linon Pretty, (B.S.) of Scotch Plains, N.J., Jan. 25, 2011

'53 Irvin Douglas Sugg Sr. (J.D.) of Hampton, Va., July 9, 2010. Judge Sugg was the first African-American lawyer to practice law in Halifax County, Va. He was appointed by Gov. Charles Robb as general district judge for the 10th Judicial District for a six-year term, becoming the first African-American judge of the district. He retired from the bench in 1998.

'55 Eunice E. Stewart (B.S.) of Durham, Oct. 25, 2010

'55 Ernest P. "Pete" Ward (B.A.) of Washington, D.C., Oct. 26, 2010

'58 Ulysses F. "Hap" Faulkner (B.S.) of Silver Spring, Md., Jan. 30, 2011

'60s

'66 William D. "Buck" Bennett (B.A.) of New York City and Raleigh, Dec. 19, 2010

'68 The Rev. Dr. Willie Otto Kent (B.S.) of Severn, Md., Jan. 4, 2011

'68 Hattie Mae Carter Peterson (B.S.) of Newburgh, N.Y., Jan. 10, 2011

'70s

'72 Ruby B. Borden (BSN) of Durham, Oct. 21, 2010

'73 Nannie "Nan" Elizabeth Winstead Davis (BSN) of Durham; memorial service held on Sept. 18, 2010

'73 Lawrence Delano Wilson Sr. (BSC) of Raleigh, Jan. 9, 2011. He retired as the director of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Economic Opportunity. He was the owner of Wilson Photography, which served the Middle Atlantic states for more than 20 years.

'76 Betty Deloris Marable Copeland (B.A.) of Durham, Nov. 29, 2010

'79 Robert Irvin Spruill (BBA) of Newark, N.J., Aug. 24, 2010

'79 Dianne Poindexter Turner (M.A.) of Wilson, May 9, 2010

'80s

'82 Zetta B. Scales-Farmer (B.A.) of Burlington, Nov. 26, 2010

'90s

'96 Ivy Renee Scott (B.A.) of Durham, Jan. 27, 2011

'00s

'02 Demetrius Montrell Blount (B.A.) of Durham, Oct. 31, 2010

'04 & '08 Aedrian M. Dula (BBA and MIS) of Hickory, Jan. 30, 2011

Class year not available

Exter Gilmore Sr. of Durham, Sept. 25, 2010

Faculty/Staff

'83 Cheryl Lynn Harrington (B.S.) of Durham, N.C., Dec. 27, 2010. Ms. Harrington was employed at NCCU as a research operations manager for the Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute since 1998.



Charles H. Flowers at a 2005 commencement at the school bearing his name in Springdale, Md. | Photo courtesy of *The Gazette*

Saying goodbye to a friend...

Charles Herbert Flowers, '47, one of the earliest Tuskegee Airmen, died Jan. 28, 2011, in Glenarden, Md. He was 92.

Born in Wadesboro, N.C., Mr. Flowers attended the Negro Agricultural & Technical College of North Carolina (now N.C. A&T State University) for two years, but could not complete his degree for lack of funds. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1941 when it created a program in Tuskegee, Ala., to train African-American aviators. He was among the first graduates of the flight training school, and was invited upon graduation to remain as an instructor. He proceeded to train hundreds of pilots, navigators and bombardiers during World War II.

After the war, he resumed his education at North Carolina College (now NCCU), where he was a member of Omega Psi Phi and president of the Student Government Association in 1946-47. He earned a degree in business administration.

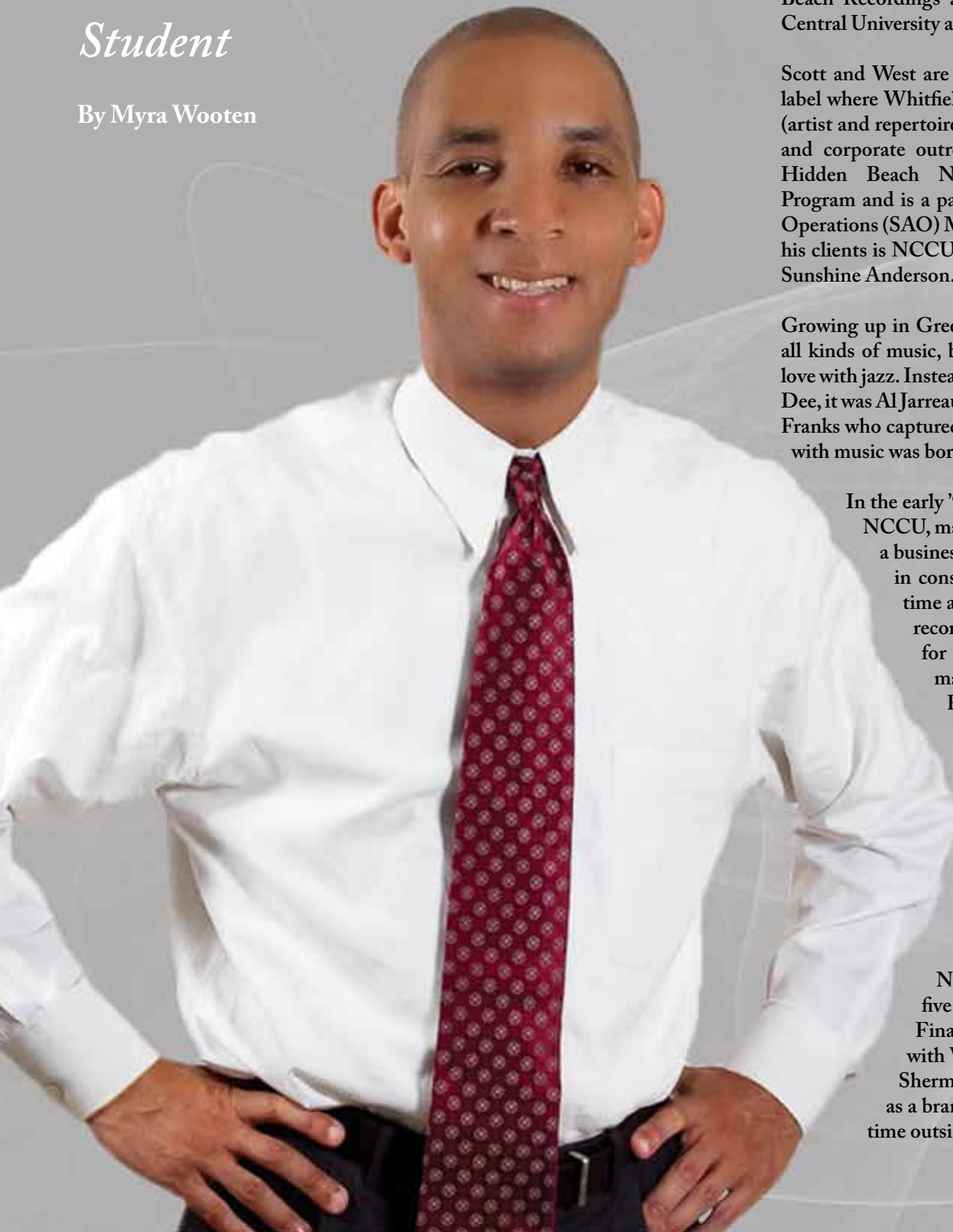
After college, he had a successful business career in Winston-Salem before moving to Maryland in 1963 to take a position at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, where he became a manager of employee relations before retiring in 1990. In 2000, the Prince Georges County Board of Education named the Charles Herbert Flowers High School in Springdale, Md., in his honor, making a rare exception to its policy of naming schools only after the namesake's death.

Mr. Flowers is survived by his wife of 67 years, Wilhelmina; a daughter, Carolyn Green of Charlotte; a son, Charles H. III of Glenarden; six grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Roderick of Glenarden and daughter Beatrice Yvonne Hinton of Winston-Salem.

MUSIC MAN

Charles Whitfield Took Aim at a Music Industry Career While Still a Student

By Myra Wooten



On the surface, it may not seem that Jill Scott, the Philadelphia-born singer, songwriter and poet, has much in common with Cornel West, the Princeton-educated religion professor from Oklahoma. But there is a connection — and it runs through Hidden Beach Recordings and includes North Carolina Central University alumnus Charles Whitfield.

Scott and West are both recording artists on the label where Whitfield was once the head of A&R (artist and repertoire), retail sales, artists' relations and corporate outreach. Today he oversees the Hidden Beach National College Internship Program and is a partner in Special Assignments Operations (SAO) Management Co., where one of his clients is NCCU alumna and Charlotte native Sunshine Anderson.

Growing up in Greensboro, Whitfield listened to all kinds of music, but when he was 12 he fell in love with jazz. Instead of Run-DMC and Kool Mo Dee, it was Al Jarreau, David Sanborn and Michael Franks who captured his attention. His love affair with music was born.

In the early '90s Whitfield was a student at NCCU, majoring in criminal justice with a business minor and pursuing a career in consumer finance. Working part-time as a product manager at a local record store, he was responsible for coordinating shipments from major and independent labels. Reading the credits on several albums that he grew to love, he noticed the name Steve McKeever. "I wanted to do what McKeever did." He determined that at some point in the not-distant future he would make contact with McKeever.

After he graduated from NCCU in 1992, he spent five years working at Norwest Financial, which later merged with Wells Fargo, before moving to Sherman, Texas, to take a position as a branch manager. This was his first time outside of North Carolina.

WITH A PLAN

A year later, he decided to follow his passion for music all the way to Southern California, confident that at some point he would meet up with McKeever. In that effort, Whitfield received significant support from his older brother, Fred, a 1988 NCCU School of Law graduate who was then a business executive involved in professional sports. Fred worked with Nike Inc. and its Brand Jordan division, Falk Associate Management Enterprises (F.A.M.E.), Achievements Unlimited Basketball School, FBR HoopTee Celebrity Golf Classic and the Washington Wizards. Today, he is president of the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats.

Fred also had built many relationships and friendships in the music business, and it was through those connections that Charles Whitfield finally managed to meet Steve McKeever. He communicated his ambition to work in the music industry, and Hidden Beach Recordings was born, with Whitfield as the first employee. McKeever and Whitfield set up shop in Santa Monica, determined to create a home for artists that celebrated their independence and allowed them to create music without restrictions.

"I was fortunate enough to be able to pick out who I wanted my boss to be," Whitfield recalled. And in 2000, Hidden Beach made a big splash with the release of its first album, "Who is Jill Scott? Words & Sounds Vol. I."

"The success with Jill gave us instant credibility," Whitfield said. "Every artist that we find comes to us through someone that we knew. We can do special projects because of that." The label is now home to dozens of popular artists, including Kindred, Brenda Russell and Mike Phillips.

Cornel West came to Hidden Beach because of a relationship McKeever has with talk-show host Tavis Smiley, a regular news panelist with West. In 2007, West released "Never Forget: A Journey of Revelations." An amalgamation of poetry, spoken word and interviews, the CD features guest artists from the hip-hop, jazz and R&B worlds, including Talib Kweli, Rah Digga, Prince, Killer Mike, Andre 3000, Dave Hollister and Gerald Levert. West is heard on nearly every track, offering insight and wisdom. In the song "Mr. Man," featuring Prince, West urges listeners, "Bear witness to justice against the system. Be true to who you are and be true to the grand vision that keeps track of the least of these." In 2008, Hidden Beach Recordings was tapped to create the official CD of the 2008 Obama Campaign, "Yes We Can: Voices of a Grassroots Movement," which included "Signed, Sealed, Delivered" by Stevie Wonder and John Mayer's "Waiting on the World to Change." The official inauguration CD, titled "Change is Now: Renewing America's Promise," was also created by Hidden Beach.

Today, Whitfield is back in the Southeast, running the Hidden Beach National College Internship Program from his home in Charlotte. Each year he connects with hundreds of college students and invites them to take an active role in learning the music business. "We're a smaller label," he said, "and because of that, we can give students the day-to-day feel of the record business."

Each summer the program invites several students to California to gain personal experience. Whitfield says the internships empower the students to not just learn, but to take on serious responsibilities within the company. The current Hidden Beach Recordings website, for example, was designed by a former intern. And Whitfield adds, "Like most companies, we hire from within."

Whitfield has expanded the program beyond the traditional internship model, making use of the Internet to create a community of online interns who post questions and ideas and receive feedback from Hidden Beach executives. Whitfield meets face-to-face with members of this online community at intern conferences several times a year, in locations that have included New York, Washington, Atlanta, Chicago and New Orleans. About 500 interns have participated in the program since its creation, about half of whom have been invited to California to work directly with the label. Candidates for the in-office internship complete an application and meet with Whitfield. Whitfield says he looks for the student who is a confident, prepared individual — someone who is "hungry."

Whitfield said starting the program made logical sense as the next phase of his career. "I worked at a record store in college and completed several internship programs," he said. "But I also sat in a classroom unsure of what I wanted to do. I know what that is like. I don't play an instrument and I'm not an artist — but music, that is my job."

When Whitfield started the internship program, he first made his way to HBCUs, knowing he could get his foot in the door. About 10 NCCU students have participated in the program, which has since expanded to include such schools as University of Nevada-Las Vegas, UNC-Chapel Hill and Purdue, to name just a few.

This spring, he returned to NCCU to host a seminar at the School of Business through the Charles Whitfield Foundation, the next step in his continuing evolution. But music will always be his first love. From Hall & Oates to Rick Ross and everything except country, he hopes to see the North Carolina music scene continue to grow. And he is optimistic that the next great artist could be on the campus of NCCU. ■



Shining Bright Once Again

Sunshine Anderson Returns to Singing, with a New Outlook

Sunshine Anderson ('97) is the comeback kid. From the highest of highs (being discovered singing in line at the cafeteria on the NCCU campus) to the lowest of lows (losing her record deal and returning home to Charlotte to start over), she has managed to build a 10-year career in the music industry. With a dream team surrounding her, including management from fellow NCCU alum Charles Whitfield ('92), Anderson has come full circle and once again the sun is shining.

Nine years ago, she had a No. 2 single on Billboard's R&B charts and a certified gold album, "Your Woman." Living in Los Angeles, Anderson said she quickly "went Hollywood." The ride was brief, lasting from April to August 2001, and then it was over. Round two for Anderson was returning to Charlotte, with her West Coast mentality still in place — she found it puzzling that some malls didn't provide valet parking.

Her short ride to fame was the result of many factors, Anderson said, including some that were outside her control. In 2001 R&B artists Aaliyah and Lisa "Left Eye" Lopez both died tragically. The loss reverberated through the music industry and fans focused on remembering the two young R&B artists, leaving little room for a newcomer like Anderson. The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks were the final straw for Anderson's father, who is her voice of reason. "My father called and said, 'The country is at war, come home.'"

Back home in Charlotte, Anderson said, she was confused and

spent the next few months "acting out of character." "My fiancé had gone to prison and I slipped out of control, hanging out five and six nights a week. I was upset with God, I kept thinking 'I did everything the way I was told to do it, so why is this happening to me.'"

Once again, her father brought her out of the state she was in. "He said to me, 'If the ship sinks, will you go down with it?' And that did it for me. There are things that he can say to me that I can receive. I think that's because he can see himself in me."

Anderson started to put together a plan for her life, and gave serious thought to cosmetology school. Then came a call from Matthew Knowles, the father and manager of R&B sensation Beyoncé Knowles. He wanted to record with Anderson. Round three of Anderson's career was the 2007 release of her sophomore album, "Sunshine at Midnight," to critical acclaim, but little airplay. It barely broke into Billboard's Top 100 and sales were disappointing, 175,000 copies sold.

Once again, Anderson walked away from the music industry, completed cosmetology school, moved to Atlanta and began work at the hottest salon in the area, Blendz. Never one to settle for mediocrity, she excelled at her new line of work, married and became a mother. "I felt really good about hair. It was a new career for me, and I decided I wouldn't let music interfere."

But music came calling again, this time in the form of a longtime friend, NCCU alumnus and producer Mike City. "Mike and I are just alike," Anderson said. "He would tell me, 'You can do this.' And he was right. I believe God gives you a gift and if you don't use it, you lose it. So I thought, why not?"

Her latest album, "The Sun Shines Again" was released in November. This time, she said, everything feels right. "This latest album is different because I am in a different place. It feels like the first album because I have the energy back. For the first time I have friends, family, management, label and an attorney. Everything is falling into place."

Anderson describes the new release as "a relationship album" and said it has been good therapy for her and for her listeners, because "everybody needs therapy."

She believes her education has helped her deal with the sometimes rocky road of the music business. "College was great preparation for the industry," she said. "You have to go to class every day to learn your craft and earn your degree, which says you are qualified. Succeeding in music takes more than just talent. Everyone is talented. If you don't know what to do with your talent, someone can take it from you. There is no school to learn how to become a star."

What's next for Anderson? It's not entirely clear, but there is talk of a reality show and possible tours with artists such as Kem, Avant and El DeBarge. The one way Anderson hopes to be remembered is as an artist that never gave up.

"Sunshine wears many hats, and it's time to put them on," she said. "I don't need everyone to see my movie — as long as I see it." ■



Harold and Margaret Russell
(Society of Golden Eagles Luncheon | October 2010)

SUBMIT YOUR CLASS NOTES

Class Notes Policy Class notes must come first hand from the graduates who have news, a death, birth, or marriage to report. Please send in your information as soon as you have something to share. We welcome news that is no more than a year old.

Photo Acceptance Policy Photos will be accepted in these formats: print or digital. You may email your Class Notes photos to publicrelations@nccu.edu or mail them to the address at the bottom of this form. We reserve the right to determine the usage of the images submitted based on quality, space, and content.

CLASS NOTE: Please fill out completely.

Name: _____ Class of _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Alumnus? ☐ No ☐ Yes Class of _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: Home (____) _____ Office (____) _____

Birth: ____ Son ____ Daughter ____ Child's Name _____

Marriage: ____ Date: _____ (Please do not send prior to marriage.)

Your occupation: _____ Date assumed: _____

Responsibilities include: _____

Spouse's occupation (if alumnus): _____

News/Promotions/Honors: _____

Signature (required) _____

Help us keep in touch with your classmates and NCCU. **If you have moved, send us your current address and telephone number.**
Return this form with your news or story idea to the following address: North Carolina Central University

Office of Alumni Relations
2223 Fayetteville Street
Durham, NC 27707

Toll Free: 866-479-2721
Fax: (919) 560-5864
Email: publicrelations@nccu.edu



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